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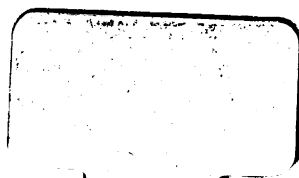
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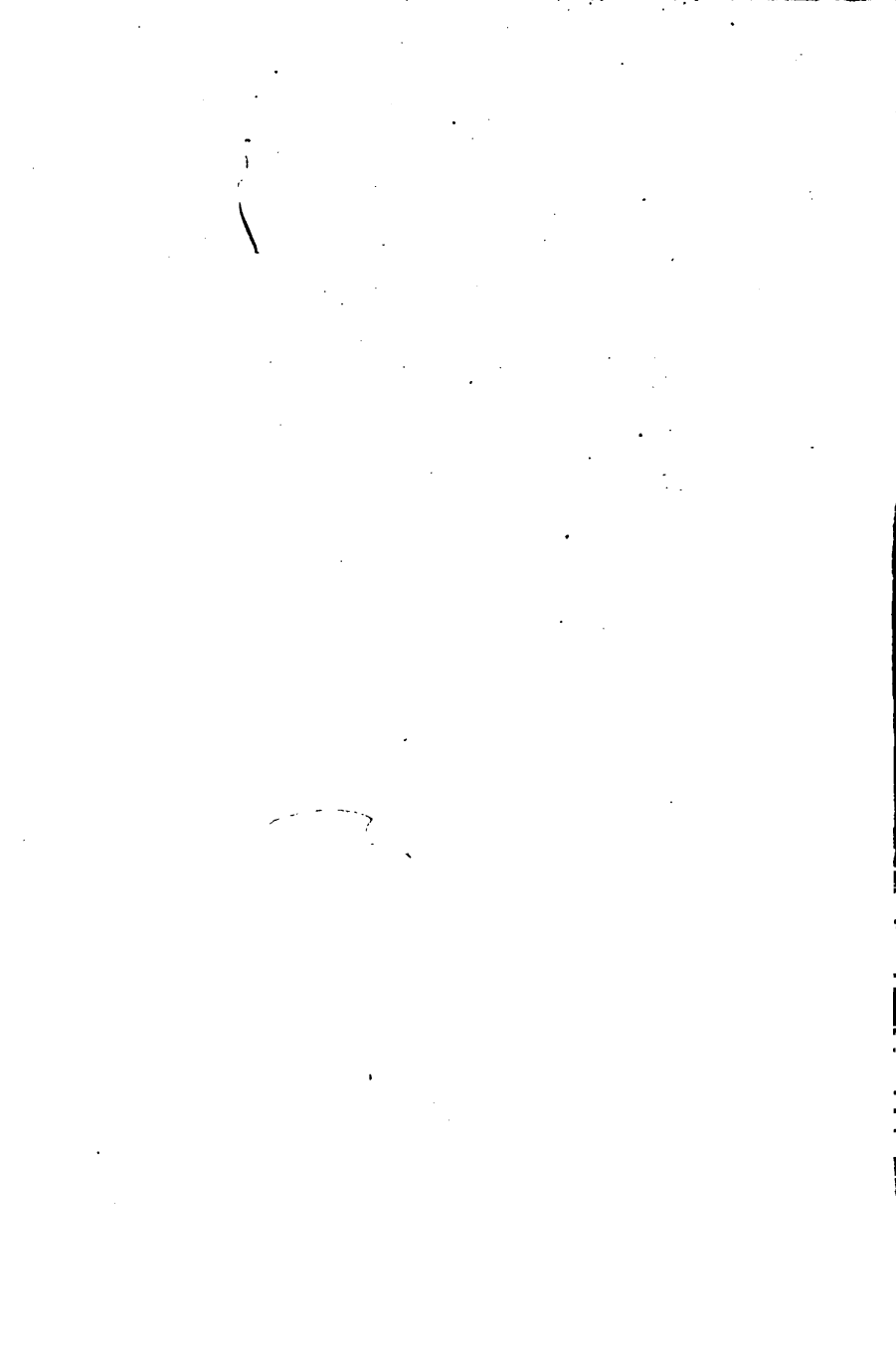
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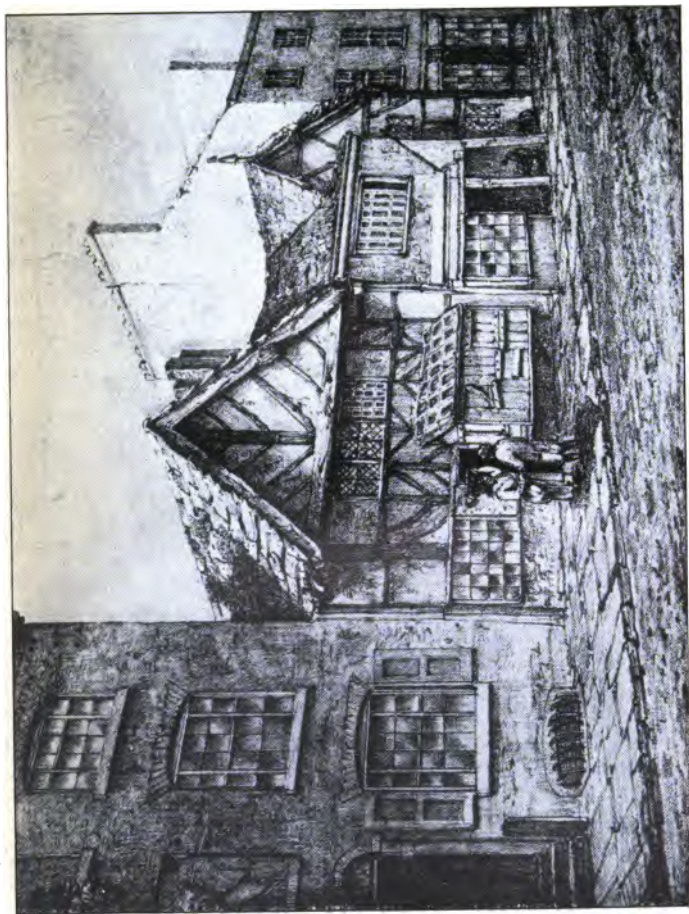
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(James A.)
A. A. L. H.







A BIT OF OLD DEANS_GATE.

(The low buildings were removed when St. Mary's Street was made. The building to the left was the Golden Lion now the Regent Hotel.)

MANCHESTER STREETS AND MANCHESTER MEN.

FIRST SERIES

ILLUSTRATED BY T.^{MR} SWINDELLS.



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PREFACE.

TO the average Manchester man of the present day the city is a great commercial centre, whose streets are crowded by surging masses of humanity, whose factories and workshops are pouring out endless quantities of manufactures of all descriptions, whose warehouses are filled with goods which find their way to all quarters of the world, and whose enterprise, quickened as it was by the inauguration of the railway system, has in our own day received an even greater impetus by the opening of the Ship Canal. The growth of the city has at times been phenomenal, and on the other hand there have been periods during which little, if any, extension could be noted ; but if we compare the city of 1906 with that of 1856, or better still, with the town of 1806, we can partially realise the immense nature of the changes that have taken place. In some respects the difference is so marked that no trace of parts of the town of 1806 remain. All has been swept away to make way for more modern requirements and improvements. The story of these changes is an interesting one to an increasingly large numbers of citizens, and it is in order that that story may be written before much of the data now available has disappeared, that the series of volumes, of which this is the first, is being written.

5413 4 July 1924 (S. 226)

I have had the idea present in my mind for over twenty years, and during that period have been collecting materials for the purpose. The opportunity for commencing the work presented itself about two years ago when I wrote the first of a long series of articles on our Manchester streets for the Manchester "Evening News." The present volume consists of the earlier portion of those articles, the proprietors of the newspaper having kindly consented to the re-printing of them. I have followed the order in which the articles originally appeared, and I intend in the course of a few months to issue a second volume. This will nearly exhaust the list of articles that have already appeared, but will not nearly exhaust the subject. It is therefore my intention to continue the work on the same lines so long as the demand for successive volumes shows that interest in the subject is maintained, until we have a complete record of the story of our city's growth. After dealing with the streets in the centre of the city, I hope to deal with each of the outside districts. Ancoats, Beswick, Ardwick, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Rusholme, Greenheys, Hulme, and Cheetham annals abound in interesting facts; whilst Salford itself will furnish many chapters well worth reading.

Such a task as the one here sketched is a great one, but if completed will be of interest and educational value to more than the present generation; and for this reason I ask for the support of all interested in the story of our city's progress.

In the matter of illustrations I am indebted to my friends Mr. G. H. Rowbotham and Mr. William Ellis

for much valuable advice and assistance. It is intended to give additional value and interest to the projected volumes by including in each reprints of views, etc., rarely, and in some cases never before published. I must also thank my many correspondents, who during the last two years have written expressing their appreciation of my efforts, and in some cases furnishing further valuable information. Their letters have often been a source of encouragement.

In closing, I may say that, as far as practicable, a fresh volume will be issued every six months, copies of advance circulars being sent to all known subscribers.

T. SWINDELLS.

Monton Green,

Eccles,

November, 1906.



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MANCHESTER IN 1804.

—:o:—

A century ago Joseph Aston published the first edition of his book describing Manchester and Salford under the title of "The Manchester Guide." As this was the first attempt ever made to comprise within one small volume a historical description of the towns, together with an account of them as they appeared to the writer, the anniversary should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. The Manchester of 1804, as it appeared to Joseph Aston, was a very different town from the city as we know it in 1904. In extent it was limited to a small area. Not only was Ardwick Green a rural spot, but beyond where Ducie-street is to-day only a fringe of houses extended to Ardwick ; the ground occupied by London Road Station and beyond that right away to Ancoats Lane being open fields. Turning along Great Ancoats-street, then better known as Ancoats Lane, and resembling a lane in most respects, the fields still stretched almost to the street. Shudehill pits stood on one side of Swan-street, with gardens opposite. Most of the land between Hanover-street and Miller-street was unbuilt upon, and the new burial ground adjacent to St. Michael's Church, now known as St. Michael's Flags, was away in the fields. Where Victoria Station is now, there were fine houses

with gardens and fields ; a country lane leading to Strangeways Hall. In Salford the fields were reached at New Bailey-street, the outlook from the prison being extremely rural. Much of the land in the neighbourhood of Quay-street was formed into garden allotments, and in Oxford-street only four buildings were to be seen after passing St. Peter's Church. Picturesque Garratt Hall stood on the banks of Shooter's Brook, which then ran open, and Granby's Row fields were entirely unbuilt upon. Within the area thus roughly sketched was clustered together the Manchester of 1804, the town described by Aston in his " Guide." Reverting now to the volume itself, we will briefly note some striking features presented by it. One chapter is devoted to the streets, squares, &c., in which he tells us that " the number of streets, squares, courts, yards, and other inhabited places in Manchester are now over eight hundred in number." " Mosley-street," we are told " contains many capital houses, and if it had fortunately been a few yards wider it would have been one of the best streets in the north of England." Lever's Row (now Piccadilly) was " the most pleasant situation in the town," the infirmary gardens serving to " enliven the prospect from the windows of the houses." Peel-street, which some years before formed portion of the land rented by a dyer who paid for it together with a house, a dye house, &c., a rental of £14 a year ; had then become the centre of the warehouse district. Pool-fold was the site of " many handsome lofty warehouses," although previous to 1781 it had been covered by " gardens, barns, and cottages." Grosvenor Square

(All Saints) had just been laid out, and when finished "would rival the finest squares in other large towns." "A large and flourishing plantation and pleasure ground form the centre, which is guarded all round with iron palisades." The site is now covered by the church and churchyard. Ardwick Green was "one of the best built and most pleasant suburbs in the kingdom," and the present resident of Salford Crescent will rub his eyes with wonderment when he reads the following description of it :—"It stands upon a spot almost unrivalled for a beautiful and commanding prospect, which from the nature of the situation can never be interrupted by buildings ; and the inhabitants of the charming elevation will always be sure of rich country scenery, in view of their front windows, however crowded and confined the back part of their buildings may become. The fertile valley—the meandering of the River Irwell, approaching to and receding from the Crescent, the rural cots, the pleasant villas, the rising hills, and the distant mountains, form a landscape which never fails to create an admiration that will reiterate as often as the eye looks over the fascinating picture." As we see the pall of smoke that hangs over the valley to-day we realise the tremendous change that a century has produced.

In the centre of the town, Market-street, still untouched by the improver's hand, was a narrow tortuous thoroughfare leading to the Market Place, where still were to be seen the cross, stocks, and pillory. Smithy Door and Smithy Bank, with their picturesque buildings, were in startling contrast to the Victoria-street and hotel as we see them. Victoria-street was not dreamed of, and

from the corner of Salford Bridge a footpath led across the churchyard, which then stretched down almost to the river. On the river bank itself stood a number of old houses, several of which were licensed for the sale of liquor. Deansgate was only built up to a point a little beyond St. John-street, and where the Free Library and Market stand was Humfrey's Garden, where the housewives of the period used to resort for their savoy, spring salads, and potatoes. At the corner of Priestnor-street (now Liverpool Road) was Dolly Phillip's bread shop, which was sacked by the rioters in 1812. Five of the rioters, including a woman, were afterwards executed at Lancaster. From Priestnor-street to where the railway arch crosses the road was a pleasant walk, shaded by trees, and locally known as Lady's Walks; while from a point a few yards away a footpath through the fields and overshadowed by many fine trees provided a favourite promenade as far as Cornbrook Bridge. Markets for the sale of different varieties of produce were scattered over the town, that for fish being at the Old Shambles and in Poor-fold; for meat in the Market Place, at New Cross, Bank Top, and in Turner-street; for corn in Fennel-street, for potatoes at Campfield, for fruit in Fennel-street, for cattle at Hyde's Cross, and for cheese in Hanging Ditch.

The town was governed by a boroughreeve and two constables, who were chosen annually at a meeting of the Court Leet. These officials were assisted in the performance of their duties by a number of special constables. Forty-five watchmen, or "Charlies," nightly paraded the streets from nine in the evening to

six in the morning in winter, and from nine to five in summer ; and the comfortable sleepers would periodically hear the hour and the state of the weather proclaimed. It was very encouraging as the hours of daylight approached to hear the words called under your bedroom window, " Past four, and a fine frosty morning." The streets were lighted by means of two thousand oil lamps, and were swept twice a week. The police authorities were located in a house in King-street, the site of which is denoted by the street name of Police-street. From thence the watchmen issued forth in their nightly patrols, and the runners who tracked down evil-doers and reformers also used it as a centre. It was here that a few years later Joseph, or Joe Nadin ruled supreme.



REMINISCENCES OF QUAY STREET.

—:O:—

Despite its present depressing surroundings the name of Quay-street reminds us of many incidents and associations which in their day had an important bearing upon the life of the town. It serves to call back to the mind the fact that it had its origin in Manchester's first attempt to get nearer to the sea, or if that failed to bring the sea nearer to the town. For many generations the Mersey had been navigable as far as Bank Quay, Warrington, but in 1720 an Act of Parliament was obtained to make the Mersey and Irwell navigable as far as Manchester. This was done by means of weirs, locks, and cuts across the principal bends of the river, communication being made thereby with the Mersey at Runcorn. The company was styled, "The proprietors of the Mersey and Irwell Navigation," but for many years the popular appellation was the Old Quay Company. This was to distinguish it from the New Quay Company, which was formed in 1822, and which entered into carrying competition with the old company.

It was in connection with the launching of a new flat at the wharf of the new company at New Bailey Bridge on February 29th, 1828, that there occurred a disaster that appalled our grandfathers. The new vessel, fully rigged, was christened the "Emma" by two young ladies, the daughters of Mr. W. B. Grime, the agent of the company, amidst the cheers of assembled crowds,

and the strains of music from the band of the 9th Regiment stationed in the yard, and the process of launching was just completed when she heeled over on her side throwing those who were on board into the river. The greatest confusion ensued, but the work of rescue was immediately commenced. In all thirty-eight lives were lost. Amongst the rescued were the two young ladies who had taken so prominent a part in the ceremony; and in later years the elder one took a leading part in philanthropic and other work in the city. The standing memorials to her memory to-day are the Albert Memorial in Albert Square, presented by her to the city in 1867, and the Cromwell Monument in Victoria-street, another gift to the city.

Reverting to the old company, when it commenced business it had a quay at the bottom of a country lane known as Quay-street, and in its advertisements it stated that "there are convenient warehouses at both keys (Manchester and Warrington), and great care would be taken of all goods that come up or go down the river." Aston tells us that about 1750 a number of rooks, which had occupied some tall trees in Shudehill, migrated to trees that grew in Quay-street; but that as their new homes were cut down about 1770, the birds were driven entirely out of town.

The thoroughfare did not lose its rural character, however, for many years after this, as is shown by the story of the present recreation ground. On the site of Messrs. Gratrix's building stood Byrom House, the town residence for a long period of the members of the Byrom family. Edward Byrom was residing here in 1768,

when he built St. John's Church. In a diary of the period we read under date April 28, "Went to the quay to Cousin Byrom's to see the first stone laid of a church that he is building in the field behind his house." Later entries tell us of great doings in November, when the rearing was celebrated, the workmen dining at Byrom House, flags flying, bells ringing, cannon firing and music; and of the consecration by the Bishop of Chester in July, 1769. Edward Byrom died in 1773, and his daughter Eleanor remained in residence at 23, Quay-street until her death in 1838. As a child she was very delicate, and it was often thought that she would not live to womanhood. However the child spent much of her time playing among the grass and under the trees in the field opposite the house, which fact was believed by the family to have so benefitted her health that she became stronger, and survived till her eighty-second year.

When she died, the estate passed to her niece, Miss Eleanora Atherton, who to the time of her death in 1870, lived some portion of every year at the "house at the Quay." Not only so, but recognising the benefit her aunt had derived from it, she carefully tended the field opposite the house, and it was at one time generally believed in the neighbourhood that in her will or in some other way she had left instructions that it should never be built upon. It is a recreation ground to-day, and although its surroundings and appearance have changed since the days when little Eleanor Byrom played amongst the daisies there, it still serves the purpose of a playground for the children of the present day.

When Casson and Berry's map was published in 1741 there was only another house in Quay-street, and that stood nearer the top, where Messrs. Ralli Brothers' warehouse now stands. This was, a century ago, the handsomest and largest house in the town. As a proof of its extent it is stated that on one occasion Sir Watts Horton, Bart., of Chadderton Park, Middleton, passing through Manchester on his way to the Earl of Grosvenor's residence at Eaton Hall, rested one night there ; and that forty-two beds were prepared for the occasion. The house was long occupied by Lady Egerton, whose son Thomas was raised to the peerage as the Earl of Wilton by George III. After her death it was tenanted by Mr. Lloyd, barrister-at-law, and later still was divided into three residences, one of which was long known as Pitt's dancing academy.

After these two houses, one of the next to be erected was the one referred to recently as having been tenanted by Mr. Cobden. The house which stood next door to Byrom House was built by William Allen, who was the son of John Allen, lord of the manor of Urmston, and who lived at Davyhulme Hull, Flixton, and Mayfield, Moss Side. William Allen afterwards failed in business, and the house was purchased by Mr. William Hardman, a gentleman of artistic and musical tastes. He was a skilled musician, and he built at the back of the house a splendid music-room which was often used for rehearsals in connection with the Gentlemen's concerts. His collection of paintings at Quay-street was said to have cost him over £30,000 ; in addition to which he had a valuable cabinet filled with rare gold, silver, and copper coins.

A century ago many wealthy families resided in the town, but Thomas Barritt has left it on record that not one of them "could cope with the studio in Quay-street for literature, science, and the arts." Mr. Hardman left two sons; John, who married Miss Tipping, of Crumpsall Hall, and Thomas, who inherited his father's tastes; and three daughters, the eldest of whom commanded £30,000, an immense dower in those days. Thomas Hardman died unmarried in 1838, at Richmond House, Higher Broughton. Mr. Cobden appears to have been the first tenant of No. 21 after the death of William Hardman, and later it was owned by George Falkner (the friend of John Owens), who acted as chairman of the Owens Trustees, who let the house to them for the sum of £200 a year, and soon afterwards presented it to them. It was opened as the Owens College on March 12, 1851, and continued to be used as such until the erection of the new College in Oxford street in 1873. The building, much extended and altered from what it was when Cobden lived there, is now used as the County Court.

One other resident of Quay-street should be named. Peter Clare lived for many years at number 50. His father was, a century ago, a clock, watch, and smoke-jack maker in Deansgate, the son succeeding him as a clock maker. As such he became famous, and several of his productions, including one in the rooms of the Literary and Philosophical Society, George-street, and another in the entrance hall of the reference Library, King-street, are keeping good time to-day. As the close friend of Dr. Dalton he was an active member of

the learned society just named, and was for some time one of its secretaries. One who knew him well, after referring to the neatness of Clare's attire at all times, describes how he and his friend "the greater Ajax" appeared in the streets of Manchester seventy years ago. He says : " They both wore the garb of a Quaker in cut, not drab, but black, and there was a primness and finish about their broadcloth and spotless linen that one seldom saw. Clare was erect and dignified, and seemingly proud of the burden on his right arm which Dalton's left hand pressed upon it. Dalton's short body, on the other hand, was very much bent, and while Peter Clare was his prop on one side, a short stick assisted him on the other ; but in spite of the stoop he turned up to heaven a countenance from which beamed a combination of kindness, happiness, and sincerity, such as, once witnessed, can never be forgotten."

Quay-street is with us, very different from what it appeared to Eleanor Byrom or even to Richard Cobden or Peter Clare. The trees have gone, and little in its surroundings betoken cheerfulness or happiness. It is therefore sincerely to be hoped that at least Eleanor Byrom's playground may remain an open space for ever.



MANCHESTER'S ANCIENT DEANERY.

—:o:—

As we pass along the Deansgate of to-day the attention is fully occupied by the stirring scenes presented to the eye. There is so much to be seen that it is almost impossible on the spot to carry the mind back to the days long before the advent of tramcars, or even railways, before stage coaches had appeared on our roads, and where what is now a bustling centre of industry was a quiet country lane. And still there is standing in our thoroughfare to-day, devoted, like its neighbours, to commercial purposes, a building which takes us back to those early days of our city's history. It is a far cry to 1320, nearly six hundred years ago. In our national history the battle of Bannockburn had been fought six years before, but Edward, the Black Prince, was not yet born; and sixty years were to elapse before John Wycliffe issued his translation of the Bible. When, therefore, modern England was in its infancy, when John Deeverdeu was rector of the Church of Manchester, a survey of the land in the Manor of Manchester was taken. In it we read that the Church owned as endowment eight burgages in Manchester and the villages of Newton and Kirkmanshulme, with park woods, and pastures.

SOME PLACE-NAMES.

Mention is made of "two acres of land, and a place of pasture without the gate, between the waters of Irk and Irwell; also of the wood of Allport, which might be

enclosed and made a park at the will of the Lord, joynted to the rectory of Manchester, saying that a place called Blenorchard or Walleyreems, was between them" ; and we read also that the " Parsonage House was near to a field called the Parsonage, in or near the street called Deansgate." This field called the Parsonage gave the names to several thoroughfares in the neighbourhood of St. Mary's Churchyard. The land hereabouts, consisting of three large fields lying between the Parsonage House in Deansgate and the river had been given as an endowment of the ancient rectory of Mamecestre. It comprised four oxgangs of glebe land, and was granted to the Church by Albert Greslet, third Baron of Mamecestre. We thus find that the street names referred to are amongst the oldest and most interesting in the city. There is no evidence as to what extent the Parsonage House was used for residential purposes by the various rectors, but it is believed Thomas de la Warre, first warden under his own foundation, resided there for many years. The dissolution of the College in 1547 wrought many changes, but the charter of Elizabeth, granted in 1578 " provided one College House for the Warden, if he be present " ; and a further charter of the next century (Charles I., 1635) granted to the warden " one parcel of land with the appurtenances in Manchester aforesaid, which is called the Parsonage Croft, containing by estimation two acres." In the same charter an attempt was made to prevent absenteeism on the part of the Warden and Fellows, an evil then on the increase. That the parsons of those days were capable of roguery was proved by the findings

against Thomas Earle, who seems to have resided at the Parsonage House from 1570 to 1578. He made a number of "long leases of the tythes and some of the lands," and "alienated several houses and tenements in Deansgate." He was finally dispossessed by Queen Elizabeth, and was succeeded by William Chadderton, who "was a learned man and liberal, given to hospitality."

THE CHARTER OF CHARLES I.

Whilst in residence at Deansgate, Chadderton received an address signed by Henry, fourteenth Earl of Derby, and other notables, in which it was set forth that "the maintenance of preaching and hospitality were two things most needful in this county." The Charter of Charles I. was the result of the conduct of Warden Murray, who being a favourite at the Court of James I., refused, when appointed, to take the oaths which bound him to residence. It is said of him that after preaching before James I. from the words "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ," he kissed the King's hand, and was greeted with "Thou art not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, but by — the Gospel of Christ may be ashamed of thee." He only preached twice at the Collegiate Church, neglecting every duty pertaining to his office, and in the end was punished by order of Charles I. In 1635 "he was fined £2,000 to the King's use, suspended from his ministerial functions, excommunicated, deprived of the wardenship, condemned in costs, and committed to the Gatehouse," a punishment sufficiently all-embracing. A very different character was that of "silver-tongued Wroe," the "Lancashire

Chrysostom," who was warden from 1684 to 1718. So great was his personal popularity that the Chapter voted him a sum of money "to be expended in rebuilding and repairing the Deansgate House." Whittaker, who knew the house well, described it as it would appear when Wroe was in residence there, and said that many of the rooms were "ornamented in the style of magnificence that was universally adopted by the higher rank of gentlemen three or four centuries ago, with embossed and figured stucco on the walls; and the general aspect and architecture of the whole still carried an appearance of considerable antiquity with it." In the building as we know it, although forming only portion of the original, there are a few features that take us back to those days. The arched roof, with the pavement below composed of bluish-grey diamond-shaped stones, now covered by floor boards, was the "hall or portico of the dignified structure" described by Whittaker. There are also several pieces of old stained glass, an ancient-dated spout head, and a room wainscotted with solid oak panelling; whilst in the cellars is a room cut out of the solid rock and containing a number of recesses evidently intended to serve the purposes of wine bins. When alterations have been made in recent times fine massive beams of oak, black with age and hard enough to defy any but the best tempered of tools, have been revealed, showing how well our forefathers built. We thus get a glimpse of the house as it was when Warden Wroe resided there. Wroe died on January 1, 1718, and was succeeded by Samuel Peploe, who only seems to have resided there until 1726, when he was appointed

to the See of Chester. After this he resided at Chester, being an absentee from Manchester; and his son who succeeded him proved to be very little better than his father in this respect. However, the Rev. Mr. Oldfield resided there at a later period; and in the Poor Rate Book for 1770 the Deanery and adjacent land was assessed at a rate representing a rental value of £200.

A PICTURE OF DEANS GATE.

It is to be regretted that no view of the old building as it appeared before the alterations that were made in the succeeding half century is known to exist. As showing the rural character of the Parsonage surroundings when Mr. Oldfield lived there the following advertisement, which appeared in "Harrop's Mercury" of August 22, 1769, may be quoted: "To be let, and entered on immediately, a large garden, situated at the west end of St. Mary's Church, Manchester, reaching down from the wall to the river, wherein is contained a Flower Garden, Orchard, and Shrubbery, with a large quantity of Gooseberries and Currant-berry Trees, Strawberries, Fruit Trees round the Walls, a Neat Summer House, with two rooms papered, and Grates fixed up in each room which goes alongside the River, lying open to the Fields on that side, which makes the Air good, and the Garden pleasant. There is likewise, planted a regular succession of Bulbous and Fibrous rooted Paraniels, some of which are in Flower most of the year." Such would be the outlook from the back windows of the Deanery, the view being pleasant and rural, hedgerows and fields stretching as far as the eye could reach.

THE PARSONAGE WELL.

Another interesting feature was the Parsonage well, to which reference is made in a lease of the period, the tenants of certain lands thereabouts being entitled to resort thither for water. A few years ago, when the premises adjoining those of Messrs. Armstrong were removed to make way for the new Deansgate Arcade, among several interesting discoveries was one of a well, well built, circular, and about fifteen feet deep. It had been flagged over and forgotten, but was in former days probably the well referred to. Warden Oldfield was the last clerical resident, and before the close of the century the building appears to have been divided into several tenements. One of these was for many years occupied by Henry Barrowclough, who removed thither from the back of the churchyard, where he carried on business as an ale and porter dealer. In Deansgate he followed the vocation of a sheriff's officer, transforming the house into what was known as a "sponging-house." It is said that on one occasion Barrowclough shot a debtor who was making an attempt to escape through one of the windows. After Barrowclough's death the premises were occupied for some little time by William Cowdroy, junior, who published there the "Manchester Gazette," which had been commenced by his father in St. Mary's Gate. In 1825, or nearly eighty years ago, Joseph Armstrong, watch and clock maker, took over the premises, and still the family are tenants, and take a justifiable pride in their interesting building. But what great changes have taken place in that period of time. When the founder of the business took the

premises he lived there, and the sons who assisted him in the conduct of the business, and who afterwards succeeded him, were born. Deansgate itself, a tortuous thoroughfare of varying width, was only eight yards wide at the corner of St. Mary's Gate; and many of the buildings were mean in the extreme; whilst in walking from Salford Bridge at the foot of Smithy Bank to Great Bridgewater-street the pedestrian passed thirty-two taverns and public-houses. The Parsonage green furnished the site for St. Mary's Church, and it is quite in order with the usual fitness of things that the green of a century and a half ago should now be a place for public rest and recreation. Everything else has changed except that the street names remain to remind us of the days of fields and gardens, flowers and fruit trees.



NEW CROSS, ANCOATS.

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A FEW HISTORICAL NOTES.

To the greater proportion of the people who do their shopping in Oldham-street, New Cross is nothing more than the boundary that denotes the division between respectability and slumdom. These individuals never penetrate into the gloomy streets and courts that cover with the greatest intricacy the area known as Ancoats. Not that I would suggest that the district has been neglected in recent times by our leisured, cultured, and wealthy classes. It was not always so, however. As an Ancoats lad, living in Ancoats and attending a school in Ancoats, I remember when the only persons who visited it were those who had business connections there, and who left it as soon as they could. The terrible revelations made as to the condition of many of the houses a generation ago brought "slumming" in vogue, and daintily-dressed ladies were to be seen on fine afternoons paying calls. The outcome of this was several movements, each of which have been important factors in the improvement of the conditions under which the slum-dwellers live. To mention Mr. Rowley's work at New Islington, with its outcome, the Ancoats Brotherhood, the Healthy Homes Society, the Art Museum, and the University Settlement, is to enumerate a few of the movements that have developed during the last twenty years. But even yet Ancoats is not, and probably never will be again, a desirable place for residence.

Very different was it even a century ago, when Ancoats Lane was a country lane, when the old Ancoats Hall (th' house wheer th' mon wur buried on th' top) stood amidst pleasant surroundings ; when the Crescent, long since swept away by the Midland Railway Company, was tenanted by employers of labour ; and when the front of the " Ivy House " was covered with a luxuriant growth of that plant. And going back further, the contrast with the present would still be greater.

As a place name Ancoats, or Ancotes, as it was formerly spelled, is very old, dating back to the opening of the fourteenth century, when Thomas de Grelle, Lord of Mamecestre, gave to his beloved servant, Richard de Boudoun, three tofas of land, one of which was described as lying " between the way that leadeth from Mamecestre to Stockford and the way that leadeth from Mamecestre to Ancoats," and another as lying " between the way that leadeth from Mamecestre to Ancotes and the way that leadeth to Claiton." What the district was like in those days can be realised much easier by examining an interesting drawing hidden away from the public view in a volume stored in one of our public buildings. As few persons have had an opportunity of examining the picture, a description of it will be of value. It depicts the appearance of the top of Oldham-street in 1734. Standing at the top of Oldham-street we see before us a broad country lane fringed on either side by hedgerows. This was Newton Lane leading to the heath bearing that name. Other lanes run to our right and left. At the right hand corner of Newton Lane stands a two storied double-fronted cottage, which we are told in a footnote

was an alehouse with the curious designation of "The Iron Dish and Cob of Coal," a sign as peculiar as any of which we have record in Manchester. A little beyond the alehouse stands a second cottage, these being the only buildings depicted in the picture. Near to the left hand corner of the lane opposite to the alehouse a woman is represented as drawing water from a well or pool. This would probably be one of the pieces of water that formerly extended from Newton Lane down to Shudehill, and known as the Shudehill Pits.

A second footnote to the picture tells us that just beyond the second cottage a footpath led through the fields to the colliery at Bradford. This was in 1734, or forty-three years before the land in the immediate neighbourhood was sold for building purposes. In 1775 Thomas Bound, bricklayer, purchased from Henry Legh and George Legh, of High Legh, Cheshire, the land bounded by Newton Lane and Ancoats Lane, and known as the Great Croft, and two years later Bound resold a portion of the whole to Thomas Hodgkinson, the boundaries being Newton Lane, Ancoats Lane, Bound-street, and Henry-street. The association of the Legh family with the district provided the names for George, Henry, Leigh, George Leigh, and Cornwall-streets. This would appear to mark the commencement of building operations hereabouts; and when, some seventeen years later, Laurent's plan was published, a fair number of houses had been built, and a New Cross had been erected at the crossing of the ways, giving a name that has long survived the erection that originated it.

Let us now glance at a second picture contained in the collection previously referred to. It is undated, but evidently represents New Cross as it appeared a century ago. The "Iron Dish and Cob of Coal" has disappeared and is replaced by a large building bearing the designation of "Crown and Kettle," many buildings have sprung up in Newton Lane, and the district has changed from a purely rural one to a suburban one. In the foreground stands a high stone pillar surmounted by a cross, and running from the base of it are the shambles that formerly stretched from Newton Lane, until the market was removed to Smithfield in May of 1821; and on the left-hand side is the rounded building familiar to all Ancoats men. As time passed other changes came, Newton Lane became Oldham Road, Ancoats Lane became Great Ancoats-street, and the Shudehill Pits disappeared, a Wesleyan Chapel being built upon the site of one of them. Another change should also be noticed. A century ago or thereabouts it was customary to bury the bodies of suicides at New Cross, and during excavations made in 1846 several skeletons were discovered.

Round about New Cross are a number of sites possessing interesting reminiscences which should be mentioned. Thus, it was in Newton Lane that Lord Derby, then in residence at the College, seized the press upon which the Marprelate Tracts were printed in 1588. These tracts, which were the outcome of the rapidly growing Puritanism of many Protestants, comprised some fierce attacks upon the Bishops, and were printed in secret. After being surprised at Kingston in Surrey

and Faweley in Northamptonshire, Robert Waldegrave removed to a house in Newton Lane, where he printed a tract, "Ha' ye any work for the Cooper?" when Lord Derby surprised him and captured his press.

History has left no clue that will serve to show where the house in Newton Lane stood. But the district in later years provided other sufferers in the cause of a free press. James, or as he was better known Jammy Wroe, for many years carried on business as a printer and bookseller at 49, Great Ancoats-street, where he sold the Radical journal "The Observer." His fearless denunciation of the wrongdoings of the governing classes brought him into conflict with the law, and in the course of four months he had no fewer than thirteen processes issued against him. But the most glaring case of injustice occurred on September 22, 1819, about five weeks after the butchery of Peterloo. On that day Mrs. Wroe and a shop boy were taken into custody for merely selling a copy of the "Manchester Observer," Mr. Wroe himself being in prison at the time, and this was the second time that she had been locked up although she had an infant at the breast. In 1820 Mr. Wroe was tried at the Lancaster Assizes for selling a copy of "Sherwin's Political Register," containing an address to the army, and for selling another copy containing remarks made upon a speech delivered by the Prince Regent. For the first offence he was imprisoned for six months and fined £100, and for a second he was imprisoned for a further period of six months and at the expiration of the year he was required to enter into bail for his future good behaviour.

Twelve years later Abel Heywood, for selling an unstamped publication, "The Poor Man's Guardian," was sentenced to four months imprisonment and in 1834 and 1836 he was fined for similar offences. In later years Manchester honoured itself by appointing the Oldham-street bookseller to the position of Mayor of the city. Copies of the "Observer" and "Poor Man's Guardian" are becoming scarce, and perhaps a word or two about them will not be out of place. The first-named was stamped, and was sold for "sevenpence ready money," as we are told at the head of the front page. It consisted of four leaves, each 16 inches by 11. Two pages were occupied by advertisements, and one page was filled with Parliamentary news. In the copy before me, that for May 9, 1818, the correspondence columns are the most interesting feature in an otherwise dull paper. The "Poor Man's Guardian" was described as "a weekly paper for the people. Published in defiance of law to try the power of right against might." In the top right-hand corner is a representation of the official stamp with the central design represented by a printing-press, and where the value of the stamp should appear the words "Knowledge is power." My copy was issued on June 22, 1833, and consists of four leaves about $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in size. The front, second, and half of the third pages are occupied by a spirited appeal on behalf of a free Press. Political matters occupy nearly the whole of the paper, the few news items including the report of the loss of ten vessels in a storm at Blackpool. Regarded in the light of modern journalism there does not appear to be anything in the

papers to justify the long system of persecution to which their publishers were subjected.

A well-known character in Manchester seventy years ago was Dr. Grindrod, who lived at 5, Great Ancoats-street. He was the first medical man to join the teetotal movement, and it was therefore remarkable that his neighbours were members of the trade. Two doors away on the one side was the Crown and Kettle, whilst a beer shop was at number seven, and the Nelson Tavern at number nine. He took the pledge in 1833, and at once proceeded to speak and lecture in support of the new movement. Three years later a temperance meeting was held in a new room in Oldham Road, when the room gave way, and two persons were killed and over sixty injured. Amongst those who were converted whilst visiting the sufferers, who were attended by Dr. Grindrod, was Bishop Stanley, who, however, shortly afterwards, on the advice of his medical attendant, resumed the moderate use of alcoholic liquors. Another of the doctor's converts was John Cassell, the founder of the great publishing firm. Dr. Grindrod on one occasion entered into a public discussion with Mr. Youil, a brewer, in the presence of many thousands of people in Stephenson Square. He also won the £100 prize offered by the National Temperance Society for the best essay on intemperance. He died at Malvern, Wilts., on November 18, 1883, in his 73rd year.

BYGONE SMITHY DOOR.

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To the present generation, with its knowledge of Market-street, Victoria-street, and Deansgate as wide thoroughfares, the name of Smithy Door is hardly even a recollection. It is seventy years since the first step towards its ultimate destruction was taken. At that time the widening of Market-street was nearly completed, but Smithy Door still remained untouched by the improver's hand. Leading out of the Market Place it consisted of two narrow thoroughfares, the shorter one ending where the picturesque building known as the Vinter's Arms stood. Turning to the right hand the second thoroughfare ran in the direction of "Th' owd Church," but only in the direction, not to it. At the bottom of Smithy Door, on the right-hand side stood a chemist's shop, only recently removed; and to the left-hand was the road leading down to Salford Bridge. From the Bridge to Cateaton-street was a street known variously as Smithy Bank and Old Bridge-street. Along the left-hand side ran a row of shops, backing to the churchyard; and near to where Cook's offices are was a stile, situated at the end of a footpath leading across the churchyard. Drivers of vehicles wishing to get from the end of Deansgate to the further side of the churchyard were compelled to go round by Cateaton-street, Hanging Ditch, and Fennel-street.

As the visitor passed from the Market Place down Smithy Door he would observe three narrow passages running off the left-hand side of the thoroughfare. One

of these, Bayley Court, was a cul-de-sac, but the other two led into Deansgate ; the first, Fleece Court, being almost straight, but the other one, known as King's Arms Entry, like many other back streets of those days, was extremely irregular and crooked. On the opposite side of Smithy Door were the Shambles, a fragment of which has survived. The houses and shops in Smithy Door were without exception ancient, a few were dilapidated and in a bad state of repair, but most of them were in a fair state of preservation, whilst a few were picturesque, and superior as specimens of the black and white style of architecture to anything that we have to-day. Let us now note a few of the more interesting features associated with this delightful bit of old Manchester, and endeavour to learn somewhat of the citizens who inhabited those ancient dwellings.

But before dealing with the inhabitants let us repeat the story of the name as it was told to us by our grandfathers. In the ancient days, long before the County Court was instituted, a Freeholders' Court met at intervals to adjudicate on matters of debt or trespass. On one occasion a blacksmith summoned one of his customers before the Court, and when asked to produce proofs of the debt alleged to be due, asked permission to bring the same. In due course he returned, carrying with him his smithy door, on the back of which he had chalked the score due to him, History does not say whether this novel form of ledger was accepted as evidence by the Court, but we are told that the incident originated the name of the thoroughfare. The story is illustrated in the carving over the entrance to Victoria Arcade, next to Mason's shop.

Let us now endeavour to imagine ourselves as strolling through the quiet streets of the growing town early in the last century. We cross the Market Place and enter Smithy Door, noting the buildings as we pass them. The first that draws our special attention is a tavern kept by widow Wilmott. When we examine it we find, however, that the tavern only occupies part of the original building, whose two gables are surmounted by a lantern springing from the roof. Before its alteration the house must have been of sufficient size to rank as important, and its tenant would be a leading townsman. But of this we know nothing, deeds like other documents failing to supply us with the information. In 1800 the premises were occupied by J. R. Saunders, importer of Irish linen, but four years later we find Mrs. Wilmott in occupation, and there she and her family remained for nearly forty years. As Wilmott's Vaults it was known until 1840, when James Sandiford took it over, by whom it was styled the Vintner's Arms. Next door to the Vintner's Arms was the shop of Jacob Williamson, or Old Jacob as he was oftener called. Here was to be seen a curious assortment of books, rare plates, masks, swords, and other stage properties. Many were the scarce books and prints that passed through his hands, and his shop was for many years the resort of the bibliophiles of the town. The proprietor himself, it has been said, was the greatest curiosity contained in the collection; his manners, expressions, dress, and mode of dealing being peculiar to himself.

It was from the lower end of Smithy Door that Roger Adams issued the first Manchester newspaper.

Copies of the paper are exceedingly rare, and it is not at all certain when the first issue appeared. It seems, judging from copies extant, that it was in December, 1718, that the "Manchester Weekly Journal" commenced that series of newspapers which has continued until to-day. The price of the paper was one penny, to which was added the tax of a halfpenny. It struggled on until 1726, when Adams shook the dust of Manchester off his feet and returned to his native town Chester, where he issued a paper with the title of "The Chester Courant." Apart from publishing the first Manchester newspaper Adams should be remembered for having printed the first book issued from the Manchester press. It consisted of a series of lectures delivered before the Mathematical Society by John Jackson, and was issued in 1719. In later years Adams' widow having succeeded her husband in the printing business at Chester, issued from her press an interesting volume, now scarce, bearing the title of "Manchester Vindicated," dealing with the Jacobite rebellion of 1745.

At the junction of Smithy Door and Deansgate stood a house whose circular bow windows and overhanging gables gave it a most picturesque appearance. It was occupied at one time by John Easby, a writer of more than ordinary ability, and who for many years was the Manchester representative of the "Era." Born of humble parentage, he owed his education to Ann Hinde's Greencoat Charity, and was possessed of such versatility that in later years he excelled as actor, journalist, lecturer, and preacher—a range sufficiently wide to suit nearly any taste. He issued in 1843 a pamphlet

entitled " Manchester and Manchester People, &c., by a Citizen of the World," in which many of the local institutions are subjected to a scathing criticism, not entirely justified. His publications " Bog Logis's Budget " and " Paddy Kelly's Budget " were probably the most scurrilous papers ever issued in the city.

Failing to obtain success in journalism, Easby became the host of " Number Six " beerhouse, which stood near the Lower Mosley-street Schools, where he died in 1852. Opposite the corner from Easby's shop stood a well-known druggist's shop. For over a century the business was conducted on the same site, in the early part of the last century by James Brereton, who was succeeded by Griffiths Hughes, whose death occurred recently. For the greater part of the century the business has only had three proprietors. The earliest date I can trace with reference to the business is 1772, when John Leigh was in occupation. To the Manchester men of seventy years ago few institutions were more popular than was John Shaw's Club, which had originated at a punch house famous fifty years before. Some account of the club and its eccentric founder will be given on some future occasion. For the present we are concerned in the fact that from 1835 to 1838 the club met at the Unicorn Inn, kept by Joseph Challender, which stood at the corner of the Market Place and Smithy Door. Just at this point the street was very narrow ; in fact, the space between the two curbstones was only just sufficient to allow a vehicle to pass, and the footpaths being proportionately narrow, it was dangerous for any persons

to attempt to pass the spot at the time that a cart was passing. Compare this with the width of Victoria-street at the same spot and we realise how great has been the change. This change commenced in 1833, when the making of Victoria-street was entered upon. The widening took place on the left-hand side, part of the Smithy Door buildings being removed ; but it was not until over forty years later that all trace of Smithy Door was removed, and the Vintner's Arms and its surroundings gave place to the present Victoria Buildings.

It was during the first of these alterations that an interesting discovery was made which reminded those who saw it of the days of Henry VIII. In the year 1540 the Collegiate Church of Manchester (in common with six other places principally collegiate) obtained the right of Sanctuary, this constituting it a "place of privilege for term of life to all offenders and malefactors, of whatsoever quality, kind, or nature their offence might be, for which saide offences and crimes the paine and punishment of death should ensue, by the statute laws and customs of the realm," other than murder, rape, burglary, highway robbery, or arson. This was the very doubtful privilege conferred upon the people of Manchester in 1540, and it was soon found that it did not tend to peace and order. Hollingworth says : "But within a year or two the Sanctuary was found prejudicial to the wealth, credit, great occupyings, and good order of the said towne ; in which towne, sayth the statute, it is expedient that honest, true, and credible persons, and not any manner of light person or persons should inhabit." He then goes on to say

that the latter occasioned "idleness, unlawful games, unthriftiness, and other enormities in the laborers, servants, and others of the said town," that "divers thefts and robberies and felonies were committed," that the town was not yet walled, nor had it either "Mayor, Sheriffe, Bayliffe, or other head officer than the Steward of the Lord of the Manor, nor any prison or goale."

In response to so strong a case the right of Sanctuary was removed from Manchester to West Chester (Chester), which had no such trade of merchandise, and had a strong goal, a Mayor, &c. In connection with the right of Sanctuary, several houses in the town were devoted to the accommodation of those who sought refuge. To each of these was attached a chapel with an altar, to which inmates might retreat if necessary. Tradition says that one such house stood at Hyde's Cross, where the Old Boar's Head stands, and another in Old Millgate. Whilst the alterations in Smithy Door referred to were in progress a small building with an oriel window and the remains of a statue of the Virgin Mary was discovered. The matter aroused much interest, and it was the general opinion of antiquaries that the building had formed a chapel connected with one of the Sanctuary houses of more than three centuries before. Contemporaneous with old Smithy Door was the old Salford Bridge, to which I hope to refer to later.



OLD SALFORD BRIDGE.

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When nearly seventy years ago the old Salford Bridge, over the Irwell, near the Cathedral, was taken down, after a life of over four and a half centuries, there disappeared from view one of the most interesting relics of the early days of the town.

Before the days of bridges fords were in general use, and excavations made more than a century ago seemed to point to a ford having crossed the river where the Victoria Bridge of to-day stands. Succeeding the ford was a wooden bridge, some of the supports of which were discovered more recently by workmen engaged in digging out foundations on the Salford side. After this came the stone bridge of three arches, between which were built small angular recesses. The bridge was only wide enough for one vehicle to pass over at a time, and the footways being very narrow the recesses served as retreats for foot passengers.

The earliest recorded reference to the bridge is dated 1368, when Thomas del Bothe, a yeoman, residing at Barton, in the Parish of Eccles, in his will directed the payment of £30 to the Salford Bridge. In addition to this we are told that during his lifetime Bothe or Booth built, at his own expense, a little chapel that stood on the bridge. Travelling being dangerous in those days, in chapels like this travellers offered thanks for the completion of a journey, or prayed for safety during one in which they entered.

Three times tell an ane bead,
And thrice a Paternoster say ;
Then kiss me with the Hold Rood
So shall we safely wend our way.

In 1538 the bridge was seen by John Leland, the antiquary, who thus describes the Manchester of his day. "Manchestre, on the south side of the Irwel river, standeth in Salfordshire, and is the fairest, best builded, quickest, and most populus tounne in all Lancastreshire, yet is in it one Paroch chirch, but is a College, and almost thorowhowt dobleilyd. There be divers stone bridges in the towne, but the best is of three arches over Irwell. This bridge divideth Manchestre from Salford, the which is a large suburbe of Manchestre. On this bridge is a praty little chapel."

CHAPEL CONVERTED INTO A PRISON.

At the time of the Reformation the little chapel or chantry was closed, and in course of time there being no prison in the town, it came to be used as such. In the records for 1573 we therefore read that : "What person soever shall be found drunken in any alehouse in the towne shall be punished all night in the Dungeon, and pay sixpence to the poor," and further that if the drunkard could not pay the fine, the publicans had to pay it for him. The dungeon was still in use as such to 1628.

On September 25, 1642, the Royalists under Lord Strange commenced the siege of Manchester. Lord Strange approached from the direction of Stretford to Deansgate, and Sir John Tyldesley attempted to force a passage of the bridge from Salford. This was continued

for a week, at the end of which period the besiegers raised the siege and left the neighbourhood.

MANCHESTER'S FIRST IMPROVEMENT ACT.

At this stage a period of a century passes without any record concerning the bridge. During this interval the population of both towns steadily increased, as did consequently the traffic passing over the bridge. This led to important changes. In 1775 an Act of Parliament was obtained for the purpose of widening several of the streets in the town and for laying out new ones. This was the first improvement Act granted to the people of Manchester, and in accordance with it the first street improvement scheme in the history of the town was commenced. It seemed to be a natural development of this policy that the only thoroughfare for vehicular traffic between the two towns should be improved.

Aston, writing in 1804, says that until 1778 "it was highly dangerous for foot passengers to meet a carriage ; and it was often a work of labour for persons not very active to get over the bridge on a market day, as they were often obliged to take refuge in the angular recesses which at that time were on both sides of the bridge, to escape from impending danger." Therefore it was that in the year named the bridge was widened on the side nearest to "th' owd church." The dungeon or prison was removed, and the approaches to the bridge were widened.

Of the dungeon which stood on the arch nearest to Salford a few more words should be said. It was of two-storeys, the lower one of which was below the level

of the bridge, and was haunted by rats, and it was said that one man confined there on a charge of drunkenness had his toes eaten away by them. The flooding of the river was also a source of danger to prisoners, and about 1760 a man was found drowned in the prison, the only opening into the lower room being the doorway from inside. The bridge having been widened, it continued to be used until 1837, when it was decided to take it down and build a more modern one. On September 7 it was finally closed to traffic, and the work of four centuries before was demolished. For the convenience of foot passengers during the period of reconstruction, a temporary wooden bridge was erected:

THE MODERN BRIDGE.

On March 3, 1838, the first stone of the present bridge was laid by Mr. Elkanah Armitage, boroughreeve of Salford. This was on the Manchester side, and three months later the first stone on the Salford side was laid by Mr. J. Brown, boroughreeve of Manchester. In the columns of the "Manchester Guardian" for March 27, 1839, appeared the following statement, which will give some idea of the rude and primitive manner in which the old bridge had been constructed :—
" On removing the keystone of the arch on the Salford side the whole of the masonry from the keystone to the centre pier fell over at once in to the river, precipitating three or four of the workmen into the river ; but, fortunately, none of them received any more serious injury than considerable fright and a thorough ducking. On

examining the centre pier it was found to be quite untouched and unshaken, each of the three arches having merely pressed upon or rested against the outer surfaces of the pier and abutments." One wonders how the old bridge had stood so long.

The progress of the erection of the new one suffered several delays. Thus on October 16, 1838, much of the stonework was washed away by a flood, and Mr. Gannon, the contractor, endeavouring to save the centres of the arch, had his leg broken ; and on January 7, 1839, the centres were thrown down during a tremendous gale. On March 23, of the same year, however, the keystone was set by Mr. Humphrey Trafford, and on June 20 the bridge was opened with a grand procession. It was christened after the young Queen, the second anniversary of whose coronation was celebrated on the opening day. The total cost was £20,800, and the first vehicle to cross the bridge was a wagon belonging to Messrs. Lupton and Adamthwaite, brewers, Cook-street, Salford. It was not until 1851 that the Queen passed over the bridge. On October 10, coming from Worsley, she entered the city, being received by the Mayor on the bridge, an arch sixty feet high having been erected on the Manchester side.

Prosaic and commonplace as the bridge may appear to the passer-by, its site, as we have seen, has witnessed many changes, and through the various stages of the city's development has played an important part.

MANCHESTER COLLEGIATE CHURCH.

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Since the time of Whittaker, antiquarians have been much concerned as to the actual meaning of the words to be found in Domesday Book, and which tell us that in 1080 the ecclesiastical establishment in Manchester dated back to Edward the Confessor, that it consisted of two churches dedicated to St. Mary and St. Michael, and was endowed with one carve of land. It is extremely probable that the two churches were situated one on or near the site of the Cathedral and the other near the corner of St. Mary's Gate and the Market Place. Hollingworth records the appointment of rectors in 1299, 1301, and 1313 ; but beyond these bare facts we know nothing. Harland was of opinion that from 627 to 1066 the church was of wood, afterwards replaced by stone. The present building or such portion of it as has survived the many changes and restorations dates back to the fourteenth century.

In 1371 Thomas de la Warre was presented to the living of Ashton-under-Lyne, but resigned it in 1373 in order to become rector of Manchester. In 1398 his elder brother, John, dying without issue, he succeeded him as Baron of Manchester ; and in 1421 he obtained a licence from Henry V. empowering him to found a collegiate church. Warre devoted to the endowment of the church certain lands, part of which are now in the possession of the dean and canons, and dedicated it to St. George and St. Denis, those being the patron saints



THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

(As it appeared in 1830.)

ARTOF.
LONDON

of England and France, and to the Virgin Mary. Hollingworth says that "the said Thomas de la Warre" was "partly a Frenchman and partly an Englishman." Hence the dedication. In the following year John Huntingdon was appointed first warden, the foundation providing a warden, eight fellows, or chaplains, four clerks, and six choristers. Huntingdon was warden for forty years, and built the chancel and chapter-house. Some authorities are inclined to attribute the lower arch of the Lady Chapel to an earlier date, probably about 1350. John Booth of Barton, second warden, was deprived after two years occupation, and was succeeded by Sir Ralph Langley, a younger son of the house of Agecroft, who completed much of the work commenced by Huntingdon. In this he was assisted by the Stanleys, the Wests, the Radcliffes, and the Byrons. It is, however, to Sir James Stanley, who was warden from 1485 to 1509, that we owe the best work in the building. Stanley, who was brother to the Earl of Derby, who married the mother of Henry VIII., was also Bishop of Ely. He built the clerestory of nave and choir, the Derby Chapel, and the stalls and beautiful carving on the south side of the choir; the stalls on the north side being erected by Richard Beck, a merchant in Manchester. These comprise some of the best work of their kind in the country, whilst the misereres are as quaint as any to be seen anywhere.

Whilst not mentioning the whole of those who at one time or another acted as warden several names cannot be passed over without note. Sir Lawrence Vaux, a strenuous Catholic, appointed by Queen Mary and

deposed by Elizabeth, was succeeded by Thomas Earle, who misappropriated much property belonging to the church, but being a favourite of the Queen he was granted a pension when he resigned the living in 1578. At this period the Queen dissolved the foundation, giving the college a new charter of foundation which provided for the appointment of a warden, four fellows, two chaplains, four musicians, two clerks, and four choristers. The payment of each was stipulated, and the salaries ordered to be paid are somewhat interesting reading to-day. The warden was to receive four shillings per day, each fellow sixteen pence, each chorister fourpence halfpenny, and each singing boy twopence halfpenny. Absenteeism was to be guarded against by the infliction of a fine of half-a-crown per day in the case of the warden, and eightpence in the case of the fellows. In 1594 the learned Doctor Dee was appointed to the position of Warden. A student of mathematics and natural history, he was reputed by the ignorant populace to be a conjurer, and to be in league with the evil one, with the result that his library was seized and he was compelled to leave the country. Dr. Dee was succeeded by Dr. Murray, to whom and to whose misdeeds reference was made in the article on the Deanery. Another change in the foundation was made in 1635, when the Rev. Richard Heyrick was appointed Warden. This latest charter was drawn up by Archbishop Laud, and by it provision was made for the repair of the fabric, which had suffered much from neglect. These provisions were duly observed, and included in the work done was the new roofing of the

choir and side aisles. Fortunate for the building it was that such was the case, for during the period of the Civil War no party devoted attention to the maintenance of the church buildings. On the other hand much wilful damage was done in many parts of the country by the parliamentarians. Our old church seems to have escaped such attentions for it is doubtful whether the injury to the woodwork at the Lady Chapel was caused by them. However, if the building escaped, not so its warden, for we are told that Mr. Heyrick having been deprived was taken prisoner to London. At the restoration, however, he was reinstated, and dying in 1667 was buried near the altar. A colleague of Heyrick's for a period, but ejected for refusing to read the Act of Uniformity, the Rev. Henry Newcome, who afterwards was the first preacher in the Cross-street meeting house opened in 1693. About the same time (1654) the feoffees of Humphrey Chetham's charity purchased the College from the celebrated Charlotte de la Tremouille, widow of the ill-fated Earl of Derby, executed at Bolton. After the stormy period just referred to, the peace of our Church was undisturbed for many years, until the appearance of Charles Stuart in the town in 1745 heralded a time when strong views were loudly proclaimed, and when not to be a "Church and King" man was tantamount to be a traitor to the State.

When John Wainwright, author of the tune to which "Christians Awake" is sung, was appointed organist, the payment of an old-time demand was successfully resisted. This was the annual payment of fourpence

for each loom in the parish to the Warden and Fellows. This curious payment dated back to the time when persecuted and driven from their country by the cruelties of the Duke of Alva, many ingenious artisans of Flanders settled in Manchester. In consideration of their establishing manufactures of woollen and linen, and introducing the arts of dyeing and silk throwstering, the Warden and Fellows allowed the refugees to cut such timber as they required from the extensive woods then in possession of the church ; a payment of fourpence per loom to be made annually. However, in course of time the woods disappeared, and after much discussion the continued payment of the tax was resisted.

The most popular, for popular he was in spite of his peculiarities, member of the preaching staff a century ago was the Rev. Joshua Brookes. He was so closely associated with the buildings and its services for a long period of years that it would be a mistake to dismiss him in a few words. I shall therefore devote my next article to Joshua and his friends. A few tangled threads remain to be dealt with. On Whit Monday, May 6, 1801, the first Whit Monday procession of school children made its way to the collegiate Church ; and a year later the colours of the disbanded Regiment of Manchester and Salford Volunteers were hung in the church.

The nineteenth century was, however, principally noteworthy for the alterations and restorations of the buildings, and the formation of the Bishopric, which amongst other changes caused the Warden and Fellows to be replaced by the Dean and Canons. With the mention of a few of the earlier changes we must close.

From 1814 to 1828 something like £16,000 was spent by the parish, in addition to large sums by owners of various chapels in so called restorations. One of these consisted in covering the fine stone mouldings in the nave, and dating back four hundred years, with Roman cement, another was the building of the galleries on the north and south sides, and a third was the hiding away of the fine ancient crockets and trefoil embattled ornaments on the northern side by a nameless piece of alleged sculpture. Since the early forties better taste has prevailed, and although many interesting items have disappeared, a large amount of good work has been done ; and to-day the building, whilst disappointing as a Cathedral for which it was not intended, is a fine specimen of the ancient Parish Church for which it was intended.



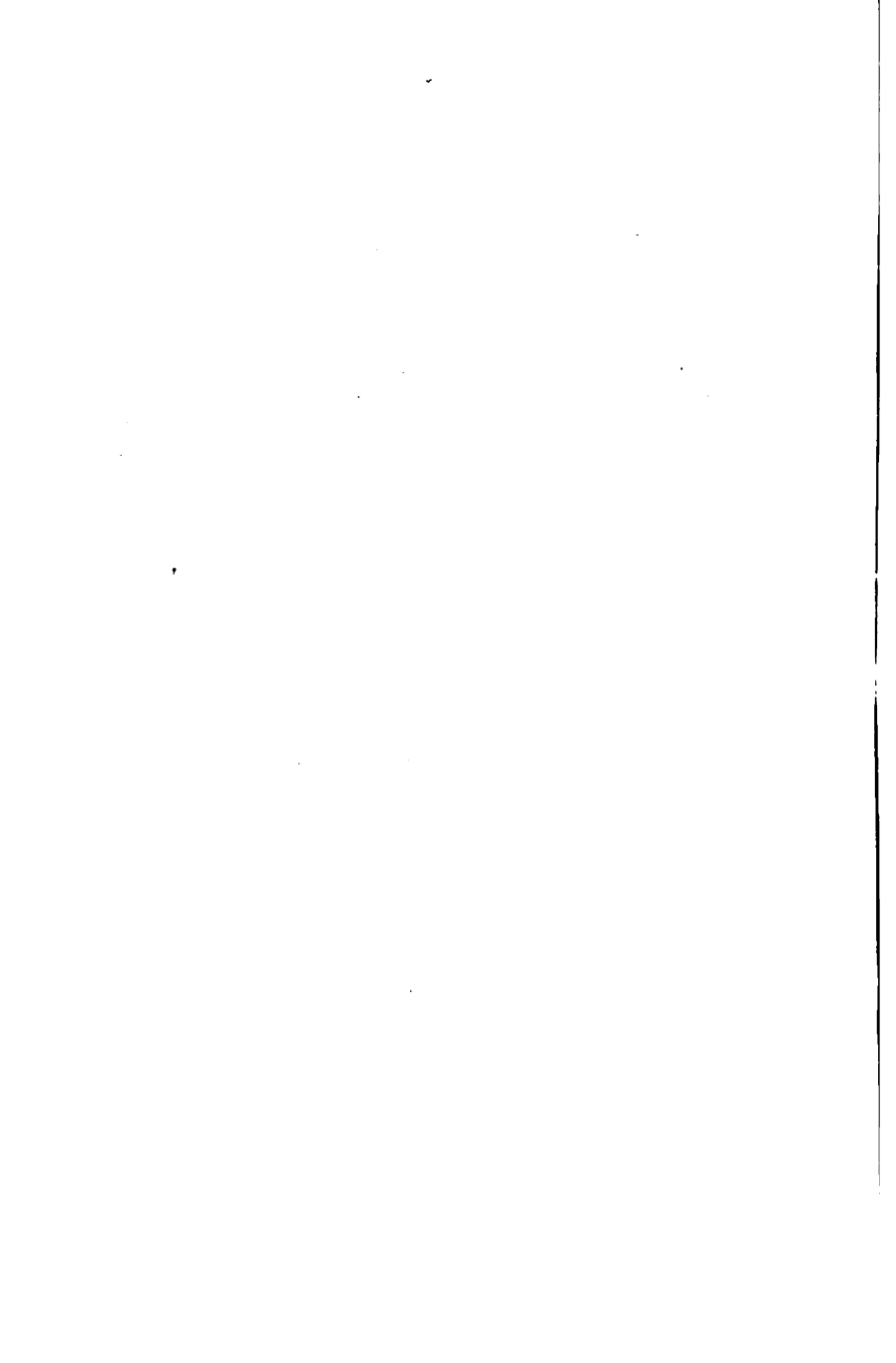
REV. JOSHUA BROOKES.

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Although more than 80 years have passed since Joshua Brookes was buried within the church he loved so well, his name is still familiar to Manchester people. It is right that such should be the case, for there never was associated with the building a clergyman who was more deserving of respect and remembrance than the eccentric chaplain of the opening of the nineteenth century. Mrs. Banks, in her delightful novel "The Manchester Man," deals with him in a kindly manner, and enables us to realise how it was that Brookes, in spite of his eccentricities, won the hearts of all who knew him. For many years he was so closely connected with the Collegiate Church that the church and parson are indissolubly associated in the minds of thousands of persons. Let us endeavour to trace in brief manner his life and character, in order that we may form a true estimate of the man.

Born at Cheadle Hulme of humble parentage, his father being a shoemaker, he was baptised on May 19, 1754. His father, Thomas Brookes, was a cripple, uncouth in appearance, eccentric in manner, and troubled with an ungovernable temper. These facts earned for him the sobriquet of "Pontius Pilate," a name called after him by lads whenever he appeared in the streets. When Joshua was quite a child his father removed from Cheadle to Manchester. and took up his quarters at a place called "Sot's Hole," situated near





Ridgefield, Deansgate. He did not stay there very long, removing to a room over a gateway near the Three Arrows Inn, and, later still, to a room in a court off Long Millgate, opposite the residence of the high master of the Grammar School. As a free scholar under Hugh Oldham's foundation, Joshua received his early education. Being a youth of some ability, he attracted the attention of the Rev. Thomas Aynscough, M.A., one of the Fellows of the Collegiate Church, and, assisted by him and other benevolent fellow townsmen, and aided further by a school exhibition which he won in 1777, his father was enabled to send him to Brazennose College, Oxford. There he graduated B.A. in 1778 and M.A. in 1781. In 1782 he was ordained to the stipendiary curacy of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, then a small hamlet of cottages clustered round the ancient church and village green. In 1783 Joshua was admitted to priest's orders, and on August 10, 1789, he was nominated by the Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate Church to the perpetual curacy of Chorlton. He only remained there till the following year, when he obtained the appointment of chaplain in the Collegiate Church, a position which he held for over 30 years. For a portion of this time he was an assistant-master at the Grammar School, where he was very unpopular with the boys. He waged open warfare with them, and on several occasions pitched battles were fought which resulted once in his forcible ejection from the schoolroom. On another occasion the timely appearance of the head-master saved him from being pitched over the schoolyard parapet into the river Irk. The elder scholars lam-

pooned him, and many were the skits in prose and verse written at his expense. But Joshua, or Jotty, quarrelled not only with the schoolboys, but with anybody who crossed his temper. All were treated impartially in this respect, even the warden and fellows of the church on more than one occasion feeling the full force of his wrath. Many are the stories told of the eccentric chaplain, in some of which he got as good as he gave. Speaking one day to a very old townsman, he often used the words "We old men." At last Mr. Johnson said to him, "How owd art tha?" "Sixty-foive," said Jotty. "Sixty-foive?" said his friend, "why, tha'rt only a lad yet; here's a penny. Go an' buy thyself a penny pie." Another instance was one day when Jemmy Watson, popularly known as "Th' Doctor" who edited a theatrical paper called "The Townsman," and was the first librarian at the Portico, made the chaplain the victim of a pun. Brookes, in reply, said "Tha'rt a blackguard, Jimmy," to which Watson retorted, "If I be not a blackguard, Jotty, I'm next to one."

A well-known weakness was his fondness for sweets. He had a running account at a shop in Half-street, and not infrequently he would leave the graveside, proceed to the shop, secure a supply of horehound drops, and return to conclude the service. In his private life he appears to have been free from the vices so general in those days. Frugal in his house-keeping, he is said on one occasion, having invited a friend to dine with him, to have entertained him with a black pudding. His saving habits enabled him to purchase the house in

which he lived in Long Millgate. It was No. 11, and adjoined the old Grammar School and stood nearly opposite to "Poet's Corner." Where the Cathedral Hotel stands was the house of the headmaster of the Grammar School, in Fennel-street was the Apple Market, and the churchyard extended down almost to the river. In Brookes' time the churchyard was not surrounded by railings, and when the chaplain suggested to Watson that some should be erected, he received, by way of reply, the intimation that there was railing enough inside the church. The boundary in those days was marked by a low wall, on which a chimney-sweep one day took up his position to watch a funeral service that Joshua was conducting. The chaplain had just read the words, "I heard a voice from Heaven saying," when he spied the imp of blackness, and to the surprise of the mourners immediately interjected the sentence, "Knock that little black rascal off th' wall," and then proceeded with the service. Many of the stories of Brookes are connected with the old parts of the town, Thus, when passing down Cockpit Hall, famous in past days for its toothsome pies, he saw a placard announcing a sale at a place called Bethany. Reading the notice aloud, he asked himself, "Bethany, Bethany! Where's Bethany?" A bystander replied, "Fifteen furlongs from Jerusalem, Joshua," to which he retorted, "Right, Tom, right." Many other stories could be told, but space will only permit of a few references to several associated with the services in the church. It is said that whilst Tom Seddon, the sexton, was digging a grave, Brookes, passing by, stopped, and, referring to a

vacancy that had occurred among the Fellows, asked Seddon whom he thought would be promoted. Seddon looked up and said, "Why, sir, I cannot tell precisely who may be raised to that dignity but I'm pretty certain of one thing ; you and I have got as high as ever we shall get in the church." On another occasion a youth, who afterwards became a well-known Manchester solicitor, seated himself in the minister's pew in the church. Brookes saw him, and sharply told him that the pew was for parsons and clerks only. "Well, sir," responded the youth, "I'm a clerk !" "Eh, what clerk are you ?" "Oh, I'm an attorney's clerk." "Oh, well, tha' may sit theer."

In his time Brookes christened, married, and buried more persons than has ever been done by any other parson in the church. His conduct on many of those occasions was amusing. To be married at "th' owd church" was a great feature in those days, and on holidays such as Easter Monday and Whit Monday large numbers of wedding parties made their way to the Collegiate Church. It was impossible to marry each couple separately, consequently they were arranged in batches. Confusion often ensued, and it was not an unusual thing to hear men and women declare that they were being married to the wrong partners. "Never mind," would be the reply, "sort yourselves after." One groom, thinking to steal the first kiss from a friend's wife, received a sounding box on the ears, with the intimation, "Dip in thi' own porridge !" For a graphic and correct description of Easter Monday at the Collegiate Church I would refer readers to Chapter 18 in "The Manchester Man."

Having said this much respecting the humorous side of Joshua, let us consider him in another light. Joseph Aston, writing in the "Exchange Herald," said that his character had been seldom correctly appreciated, and that his manner often obscured the goodness of his motive. As one who knew him, he said that "he did certainly want the delicate sensations which induce, nay, force their possessor to appear amiable; but if an undeviating love of truth, a grateful recollection of acts of kindness; if the spirit of forgiveness, which was never dead in him; if a devoted attachment to the Church of England, and a constant and an undeviating assiduity in the discharge of his professional duties be praiseworthy, we ought to forget that he was deficient in some of those qualities which are too often apologies for the absence of more substantial virtues." Another worker said: "He was a man deeply versed in the lore of the Church, and held its sacred institutions in reverence and awe. His enunciation, though extremely rapid, was clear and emphatic; to the reading of the sacred scriptures he imparted a delightful pathos, and the most discriminating euphony; and although his manners and cast of features did not challenge a very favourable estimate of the sensibilities of his heart, there were particular parts of the Bible, through which the conflict of his feeling invariably prevented him from proceeding." "Enemies he had none; for though the old smiled and the young jeered; both old and young were ready to serve him with alacrity." His usefulness and kindness of heart were generally acknowledged. His characteristic style of repartee remained with him

to the last. As he lay ill the parish clerk called in to see him. He had lost the sight of one eye, and had remained motionless during the greater part of the day apparently taking no notice of anything that was passing on around him. Joshua's house-keeper having taken the clerk into the room said, "Robert, we think he has lost the sight of the other eye." Robert took up the candle, and after duly scrutinising the other eye, expressed his concurrence in the housekeeper's opinion; when, to their no small astonishment, the dying man, in his usual hard tones and testy manner, exclaimed, "Thou art a liar, Bob; thou art a liar." A few days later both eyes were closed in death. He died on November 11, 1821, and on the 16th was buried under the west cross aisle of the church. The attendance at the funeral was one of the largest known in those days in the town, many leading townsmen being present. The pallbearers were Dr. Blackburne, warden of the church, the Rev. C. D. Wray, and four Fellows (Revs. J. Mallory, John Gatcliffe, John Clowes, and C. W. Ethelstone). It does not reflect credit upon the present authorities that we can say that neither by stone, mark, nor inscription can we identify the place of his interment.



ROUND THE OLD CHURCHYARD.

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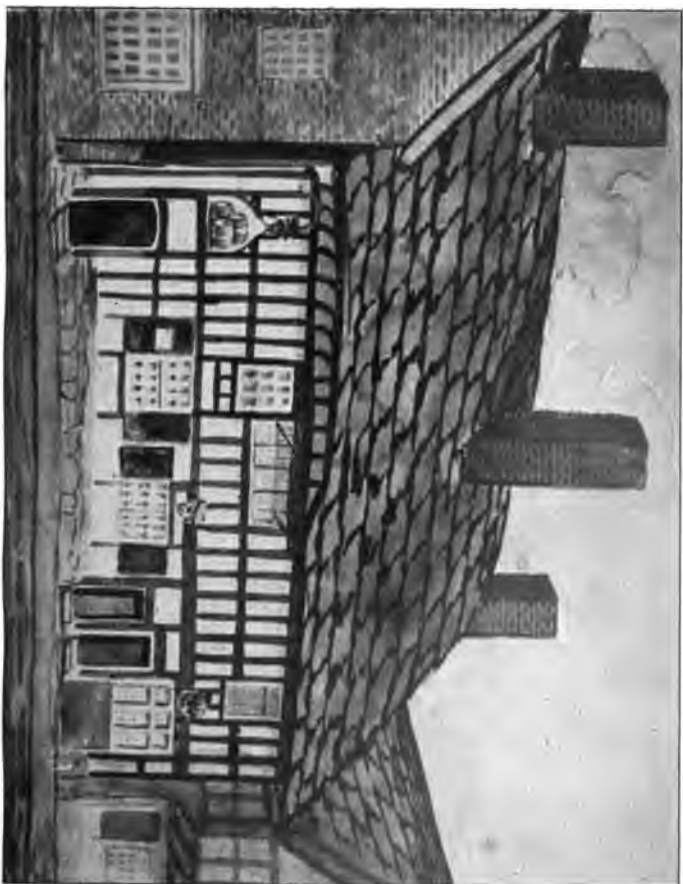
The Manchester churchyard a century ago ! How different then and now. Entering the churchyard by the stile that stood near to Salford Bridge at the beginning of the nineteenth century, we should pass on our left a number of buildings, built upon the rocky bank of the river. These were approached from the footpath across the yard, and were divided from the yard by a low sandstone wall varying in height from two to four feet. This wall extended round the yard a century ago. A portion of it was capped by a rounded coping, the remainder being finished off with a sharp ridging which in course of time by the action of the weather became somewhat flattened. This was the case on the river side, where the boys amused themselves running along the wall to the annoyance of the Rev. Joshua Brookes. It was there too, at a spot near to the Ring-o'-Bells public house, which stood opposite the church steeple that the chimney sweep originated the story referred to in connection with the eccentric chaplain. The Ring-o'-Bells was not the only licensed house that overlooked the river, the Black-a-Moor's Head and the Flying Horse standing a short distance away on either side. Amongst the occupiers of the cottages was a cabinet-maker who was accustomed to hang baited lines into the river from his yard wall. This was done overnight, and next morning he would draw in the catch, such eels as were not required for the family dinner being kept for future use in a tub in the

yard. Near to the Ring-o'-Bells was a refuse tip known as Tin Brow. This consisted of a portion of the river bank that was there sloped down to the water, and offered a favourable means for the disposal of refuse of all kinds. At length a climax was reached, and public indignation was aroused. It arose in this way. About 1811 the graveyard being filled, and a demand for graves still continuing, the sexton hit upon a novel device to suit all parties. Many of the graves were very old, often without stones, and having no mark whereby to identify the occupants. These he proceeded to dig up, disposing of any pieces of wood or bones by throwing them down Tin Brow into the river. By this means grave space was obtained, but public decency was outraged, and the yard was closed for burials. This took place in 1819, and is noted by Aston in his "Metrical History of Manchester."

This year, so defac'd by a Radical storm,*
 Gave birth to a permanent, real Reform ;
 A faculty asked for (it long had been wanted)
 A thirty years' fallow, the Bishop now granted,
 To inclose the old Churchyard—no grave to be broke,
 Till time has, for thirty times, worn Winter's cloak.
 Till that time is o'er, adieu to Infections !
 Till that time is o'er, adieu Resurrections !
 Till that time is o'er, no more will Tin Brow
 Sights shocking humanity, bring to our view ;
 Till then will no bodies be dragg'd from their graves,
 And, to make room for others, be thrown to the waves !
 No more will the fish of the Irwell be fed
 With wreck of the grave, with the flesh of the dead.

*Reference to Peterloo.

Having passed out of the churchyard on the north side we turn to the right, up Fennel-street, formerly known as Th' back o' th' Church. Here was formerly



"THREE TUNS" BEERHOUSE.

(Formerly standing in the Apple Market.)

held the apple market. On Saturdays the street was thickly studded with barrels of apples and pears sent into town principally by the farmers of the neighbourhood, but occasionally coming from the orchards of Worcestershire and Herefordshire. In later years, in consequence of the great increase in the trade done and of the number of stands taken, the market was removed to Shudehill. In the apple market, as the bottom part of Fennel-street was called, stood a public house known as the Three Tuns. In a view of the old black and white building still existing, the front of the place is ornamented with a number of curiously carved heads said to have been taken from the Collegiate Church during alterations.

At the corner of Fennel-street and Half-street there formerly stood the Black Boy Tavern, which, together with its orchards and gardens, belonged in 1711 to Sarah Broster. After her death the property passed to Elizabeth Bennion, who in 1784 devised it for the benefit of the charity school, then standing in the Old Churchyard. Two years later the property was sold by the Rev. Robert Kenyon for the sum of £420, which money was invested, the income being devoted as devised. The old Charity School was supported by subscriptions and by offerings in the church. In addition to the Bennion bequest, the school benefited by the will of Elizabeth Kirkham, whose will dated August 20, 1762, left £400 in the interest of which should go to the education of poor children. Again, in 1773, Elizabeth Bent bequeathed the sum of £300, the interest of which should be applied to the support

of a teacher in the said school ; or for clothing the children educated there. The school itself had an income of £28 14s. 3d. from chief rents. In 1808 the old school in the churchyard was blown down and destroyed. It was never rebuilt, and it would be interesting to know where it stood, and how the charity is distributed now.

A well-known confectioner in Half-street a century ago was Jane Clowes, whose shop, next door to the Crown and Thistle, was a regular resort of Joshua Brookes. The shop with its large bow window, afterwards kept by a man named Thorps, will be remembered by those whose memories take them back half a century. Mistress Clowes and Joshua were great friends, and he had a standing contract to take all her stale bread, cakes, &c., for feeding his pigeons, which he kept at the top of his house, in a cote. The price paid was three halfpence per pound. Mrs. Clowes did a very large sugar boiling business, and at her death left not only a flourishing business, but a fortune of nearly £20,000. She belonged to the old school of tradespeople, as the following story will show. She went frequently to Liverpool to buy sugar, her costume being characteristically peculiar. Her usual head dress was an old-fashioned mob-cap, over which she tied a silk handkerchief on going out. When going to Liverpool she often wore over these an old black bonnet. So attired she called one morning on a new firm of Liverpool sugar dealers, and asked to see some samples. Judging her by her dress they showed her only a limited number, and treated her with scant respect. On the following

morning she again appeared, dressed in a silk gown and a more fashionable head dress, which she had borrowed from her landlady. The change worked wonders, and she was treated with the greatest respect. But even then, so large was the order that she placed that some inquiry was made as to payment. Without demur, however, she paid cash for the whole quantity; and ever afterwards Mrs. Clowes was a welcome customer, even though she appeared attired in the old gown and curious head dress. It is said that she frequently used eight or nine tons of sugar per week.

One more reference and we must close. At the corner of Hanging Bridge, near to the church gate, was, for many years, the shop where the Swindells family carried on business as printers, and from whose press were issued chapbooks in an almost endless variety. The business was commenced by George Swindells, a native of Disley, who died in 1796; and was continued by his widow Alice, in conjunction with their eldest son, John. The family retained possession of the shop until 1846. A younger son, Henry, conducted business as a printer in Deansgate for many years. I have before me a collection of a dozen of the chapbooks issued from Hanging Bridge, which, although comparing unfavourably with the children's books of to-day, are exceedingly interesting. The subjects dealt with are Jane Shore, Robinson Crusoe, with a woodcut representing the adventurer fully equipped; Robin Hood, with nine illustrations; the Happy Cottagers, one of the illustrations representing a spinning wheel standing as high as the cottage; Blue Beard,

illustrated, and a number garland. With their poor paper, old type, and crude illustrations they take us back to the days when books were scarce and dear. To prevent any possibility of confusion, I may say that I am in no way related to the family of printers.



SOME FENNEL STREET REMINISCENCES.

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Another of Manchester's oldest streets is Fennel-street, and it is particularly suitable that one of the earliest references to it contained in our records should be in connection with one of our oldest families. To the Bexwicks belonged various plots of land in the town, and being engaged in business they held high social rank in the little community. One Roger Bexwicke had three sons and a daughter. The youngest son was a chaplain at the Collegiate Church, and it is to them that we owe the stalls on the north side of the Cathedral. The only daughter married Richard Becks. She gave to Manchester the conduit which for many generations supplied the burgesses with water. It stood in the Market Place, and was fed by springs rising in the neighbourhood of Spring Gardens and Fountain-street. One of the founders of the Manchester Grammar School was Hugh Bexwicke, and another member of the family was Bishop Hugh Oldham. In the court leet records from March 27, 1600, we read that Roger Bexwicke, had died, leaving his cousin as heir to certain of his property. This Roger had been heir to the Roger previously named. In his will he left three burgages in Manchester, one in Fennel-street to Roger Bexwicke, who was engaged in business in London, one in St. Mary's Gates to his son Hugh, and one in Market place to his son Myles.

Further court leet references appear under date October 8, 1618, when John Bamford, whose house and

garden extended from Fennel-street to Toad Lane, was ordered to repair the pavement before his house. In all probability either John or some of his neighbours, requiring clay, or daub as it was then called, for the repair of their houses, had taken what they required from the roadway. By this means they would save themselves a journey to the daub holes which stood where the Infirmary esplanade now is. That such a practice was not unknown is shown by the many entries in the Court Leet records referring to it, and by the penalties inflicted by the Court on various occasions.

AN ANCIENT CHARITY.

The Fennel-street house belonging to Roger Bexwicke was tenanted in 1600 by Edward Mayes, to whom a passing reference should be made. The Mayes Charity originated in 1621, when Edward Mayes by will bequeathed £120, which sum should be invested in land or other security, the profits and rents of which should be devoted annually to the use of the poor of Manchester. The money was invested in the purchase of four cottages near Miller's Lane, together with three adjacent fields, the whole comprising four acres. The rents were directed to be distributed every Good Friday. This was in 1635. Early in the last century various changes were made with reference to the property, the making of new streets absorbing some of the land. The remainder of the land was let on long leases, and warehouses were built on the site in more recent years. Previous to these changes there were some almshouses with gardens in Miller's Lane inhabited by six poor

women, who were nominated by the trustees of the Mayes Charity, each receiving in addition to a house free from rent, the sum of five pounds per annum. In 1807, when Edward-street was made, the houses were pulled down, and the poor tenants evicted. In 1818 a memorial stone which had been placed in front of the almshouses was fixed at the corner of Mayes-street, but disappeared many years ago. It was, however, discovered in 1866 in one of the cellars of the City Art Gallery by the late Alderman Harry Rawson. As showing how enormously land values have increased, I may say the annual value of the Charity founded by Edward Mayes benefaction of £120 is no less than £479. Another of the residents of Fennel-street who founded a charity was Anne Hinde.

THE GREEN COAT SCHOOL.

Anne Hinde, daughter of William Page, a Manchester merchant, and widow of the Rev. John Hinde, a Fellow of the Collegiate Church, by her will dated February 11, 1723, left certain property for the endowment of the charity that still bears her name. Certain lands, including the site of New Bailey, but now of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company's goods yard in New Bailey-street, were to be so used. She directed that six feoffees should manage the charity, and that twenty poor children, ten belonging to Manchester and ten to Stretford, should be maintained and educated. The children were to receive a plain education, and should "publicly say their Catechism in the Collegiate Church of Manchester and Chapel of Stretford upon

some Sunday every year." Mrs. Hinde also left directions as to the clothing to be worn by the children. It certainly did not agree with modern ideas of comfort or neatness. Green was the predominant colour. The girls' gowns and peculiarly shaped hats resembling a Cardinal's hat formed of hard felt, with narrow brims were green in colour, and the boys wore green coats, hard felt hats, somewhat like a tall hat in shape, and breeches made of a yellow shade of leather which proved very uncomfortable wear in wet weather. For the Stretford scholars a school was provided that stood on the site of the present Temperance Hall and adjacent cottages; and the Manchester ones were educated in a school that was connected with St. Mary's Church, but in later years in the St. John's School. The election of schoolmaster at Stretford in 1788 gave rise to the writing of "The School candidates. A prosaic Burlesque, by Henry Clarke, LL.D.," a book that was reprinted in 1877, by the J. E. Bailey, F.S.A. Unfortunately, some years ago, the property was sold, and the money invested in Consols, with the result that the charity has not benefited from the increase in land values to the extent that other charities have done. At present about sixty children are educated, a number of them being clothed in addition.

In one of the clauses in Mrs. Hinde's will is a reference to the Rev. Radley Aynscough, a chaplain of the Collegiate Church, who was a tenant of Mrs. Hinde's in Fennel-street, and who died in 1728. It gives particulars respecting the tenancy and is worth reproducing as showing how matters stood in the street

in those days. "Having regard to the covenant I gave W. Radley Aynscough concerning the sale of the said last-named messuage after my decease, by which covenant it was never by me intended that the pump and gate, on way standing, being and adjoining to the house where I now inhabit and dwell, shall be any ways made separate from the house I now inhabit after the expiration of Mr. Aynscough's lease, but that after the expiration of the said lease the said pump and way should go along and be disposed as appertaining and belonging (as usual it did) to the house I now inhabit and dwell in."

DR. DEACON.

Connected for many years with Fennel-street was Dr. Deacon, who belonged to a community styled by the public as "Nonjurors," but denominated by themselves as the "True British Catholic Church." The members differed from all other churches on numerous grounds, and recognised a considerable number of Sacraments. They appointed Bishops, some at any rate of whom were notable for their lack of theological training. They were principally noted for the support they gave to the Stuart cause in 1745. At that time Dr. Deacon, who resided in Fennel-street, was the Bishop, and the services were held in a room over a shop in Fennel-street. Three of the Doctor's sons joined Charles Edward Stuart, and one of them was executed along with Thomas Syddall for his share in the enterprise. After the execution their heads were sent from London to Manchester, and were placed on spikes on the roof of the first exchange that formerly stood in the

market place on a site opposite where the lower portion of the present exchange stands. We are told in Whitworth's "Manchester Magazine" for September 23, 1746, that the heads were placed on the roof about five o'clock in the morning on the previous Thursday, and that great numbers of persons viewed them later in the morning. Amongst these was Dr. Deacon who, removing his hat, remained for some time looking at the ghastly display. Less than seven years later he died, and was interred in St. Ann's Churchyard. His tomb prior to the alterations stood opposite to the Williams Deacon Bank just inside the rails, and after the alterations the stone was placed against the corner of the Church. It bears the inscription, "Here be interred the remains (which through mortality are at present corrupt, but which one day must surely be raised again to immortality and put on incorruption) of Thomas Deacon, the greatest of sinners and most unworthy of primitive bishops, who died the 16th of February, 1753, in the 56th year of his age."

The directory for 1788 contains the entry, "Paynter Richard Walter, attorney, Fennel-street." Paynter's son, David William, received his education at the Manchester Grammar School, and in early years developed great literary ability. His works comprised "History of Godfrey Ranger," 1813; "Eurypilus: a tragedy," 1816; and "Muse in Idleness," 1819; and a tragedy, "King Stephen." His "Muse in Idleness" brought down the thunders of "Blackwood" upon Manchester poetry, past, present, and future. Paynter, however, was not the only author who earned the

denunciations of the quarterlies of the period. He died young, however, and had little opportunity of justifying the good opinions of his friends. He was the personal friend of Jemmy Watson, and the pair often figured in the local publications of the period as "Corporal Trim" and "Uncle Toby." A century ago the corn market was held in Fennel-street. This would in the first instance be in the open street, probably in front of where the Dog and Partridge Hotel now stands. The bell now hanging in front of the building was rung at the hours of opening and closing the market. In an interesting picture that has never been copied and published we have a representation of two old black and white houses, which we are told were the Dog and Partridge Inn and the St. Ann's or New Church alehouse in Fennel-street, and an additional foot note tells us that both were pulled down to make way for the new Corn Exchange. This must have been very early in the last century. Why the market left Fennel-street we are not told, but it seems probable that the building referred to on the picture mentioned was some portion of the new Dog and Partridge Inn, and possibly some disagreement between the traders and the proprietor of the inn resulted in their removal to the Spread Eagle Yard.



HANGING DITCH REMINISCENCES

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Of the older parts of the city few can claim a greater antiquity than can Hanging Ditch ; for we find actual reference to it as far back as 1473, when in the rental returns of Thomas West, lord of the Manor, we read that Nicholas Raveald paid for one " burgage of land lying near the Hanging Bridge, on the east side, twelve-pence." This would be for land bounded on the one side by the churchyard and on the other by the ditch, that then found its way under the bridge, the partial exposure of which four years ago aroused so much interest. Many antiquarians are of opinion that when the Saxons, or their successors the Normans, made their settlement on the site of the present College, at the confluence of the Irk and Irwell, a ditch or dyke was cut connecting the Irk and the ditch, which running from the upper lands drained the water collecting there, into the river at a spot near to where Salford Bridge stood. Surrounded thus by water the inhabitants of the settlement communicated with the surrounding country by means of a draw bridge, on the site of which in later years was built the stone bridge referred to.

With this brief reference to this interesting relic of mediæval Manchester, concerning which so much has been written, we leave the bridge and turn our attention to the " Ditch." When the ditch was filled up and the site built upon and used for street purposes, we have no record ; but Aston, writing in 1804, says :

TO CATHEDRAL

NOTE OF POSITION

FIG. 2.

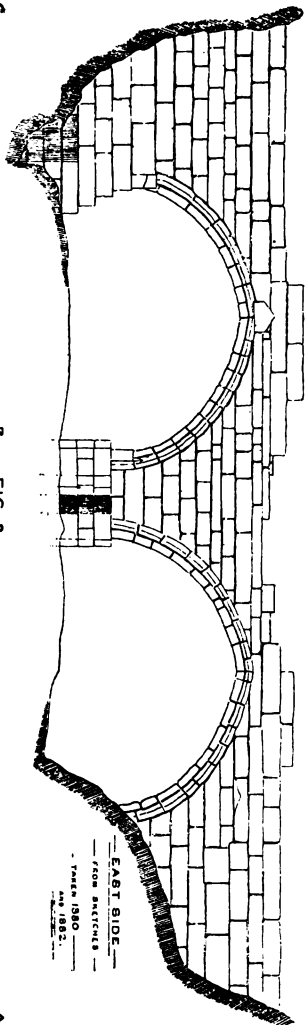
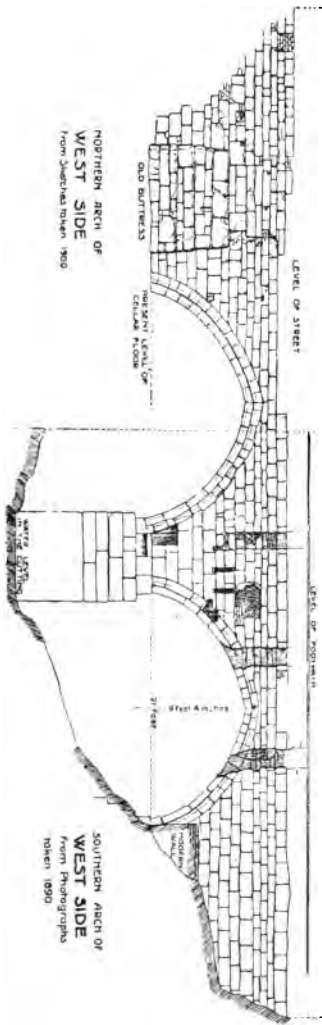
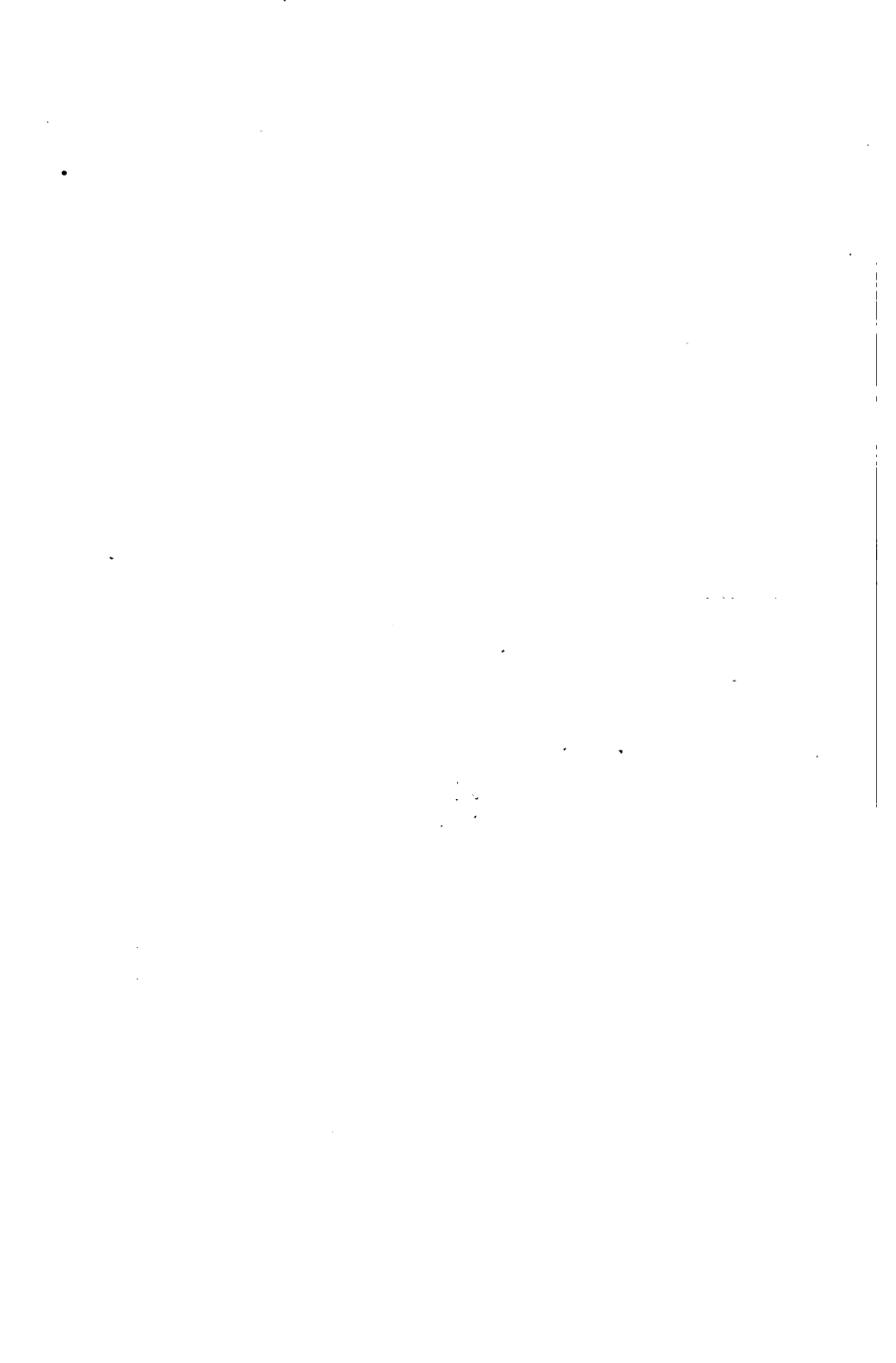


FIG. 3.



THE HANGING BRIDGE.

(As drawn to Scale by G. H. ROWBOTHAM.)



“ Within the memory of persons now living, and whose ages promise many additional years, the cart road through Hanging Ditch was through a washway so narrow that only one cart could pass at once, the rest of the space between the opposite houses being a raised causeway, guarded by a battlement to prevent foot passengers from falling into the water which ran along the cart road.” It is probable that when Cateaton-street and Old Millgate were improved and widened in 1776 the streets would be drained. As a thoroughfare Hanging Ditch was certainly known in 1552 when at the first meeting of the Court-Leet of which we have any record a “ Skevenger ” was appointed for the “ Henginge Dyche and Meyle Gate ;” and in the record for October 2, 1566, we read that George Holland, gent, residing in a street called Hanging Ditch, was ordered to make provision that the water dropping from his house should no longer be hurtful to the house of his neighbour.

An interesting glimpse of life in the town three hundred years ago is obtained in an order of the court made in October, 1602. It runs thus : “ The jury order that John Fletcher, Richard Greenhalgh, Thomas Morrisse, and all other inhabitants within the circuit of the Hanging Ditch, do forthwith amend, cover and sufficiently repair the pump in the Queen’s highway there standing, so that it be not hurtful or dangerous to horses and other cattle, but also to every passenger, and especially to children.” Passing on to the close of the century we find a reference in the records to the White Horse Inn that formerly stood nearly opposite to the Spread Eagle. For many years this was a popular

house with country manufacturers visiting Manchester on market days.

TWO OLD CHARITIES.

One of the numerous charities still dispensed annually was for many years associated with the district of Hanging Ditch. This was a school that stood in Tippings Court, one of those curious winding narrow thoroughfares so characteristic of our old towns. It formed a short cut from Hanging Ditch to Cannon-street before Corporation-street was made, and when the last named street was made nearly the whole of Tippings Court was absorbed. A century ago there stood in the court a school at which a number of children were educated in accordance with the wish of Catherine Richards, who, in her will, dated March 3, 1711, directed that the rents of certain property should annually be paid to the relief of widows of decayed tradesmen, and for the instructing and apprenticing of poor boys and girls, in such manner as the wardens of Manchester might direct. The school has gone, but the charty is administered by the Dean and Lord Ducie, the annual income being £117 18s. 8d.

Another of our charities associated with Hanging Ditch is that known as the Mynshull. In 1689 Thomas Mynshull, of Chorlton Hall, directed that the income of two houses then standing besides Hanging Bridge should be devoted to the apprenticing of poor boys born in Manchester. In course of time the old cottages were pulled down and a more modern building erected in their stead. The present

building stands on the original site, and is estimated to produce £153 per annum. When the present building was erected the trustees took special precautions to prevent any injury being done to the ancient Hanging Bridge, a portion of which, in a splendid state of preservation, can be seen in the cellars of Mynshull House. The charity is administered by a board of trustees, a list of whose names can be seen carved on a stone in the present buildings.

On December 1, 1745, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the young Pretender, left Manchester amidst the plaudits of many of the burgesses. He was accompanied by a large body of supporters, nearly two hundred of whom had been enrolled during his two days' stay in the town. Despite their determination to march to London, the rebels "took fright" at Derby, and on December 8, as a disorganised rabble, the wearers of the white cockade re-entered Manchester. It is said that some of them passed down Hanging Ditch, where they were stoned. On their way they passed the house of John Byrom, the author of "Christians Awake," whose town house stood at the corner of Hunter's Lane, now known as Cannon-street. Byrom's sympathies were with the Pretender, but he showed a considerable amount of caution at a time when most Jacobites were noisy in their demonstrations of loyalty to their Prince. John Byrom, who inherited Kersal Cell on the death of his elder brother, was succeeded by his son Edward, who built St. John's Church, Deansgate.

OUR FIRST STREET IMPROVEMENT.

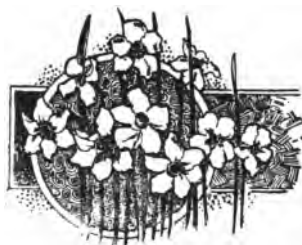
In 1776 an act of Parliament was obtained for carrying out Manchester's first scheme of street improvement. This consisted of widening Old Millgate, Cateaton-street, and St. Mary's Gate, which had been exceedingly narrow, and of the making of Exchange-street, which gave very much improved means of access from the Market Place to the fashionable residential district round St. Ann's Square. In 1791 one of the Hanging Ditch taverns received the attention of the Court Leet, for we find that William Whitehead, the landlord of the Spread Eagle, was fined a guinea for leaving carriages and post-chaises in Hunter's Lane, to the annoyance and danger of His Majesty's subjects. In those days the Spread Eagle was a coaching house, a coach leaving for Liverpool every morning at eight o'clock, the fare being fourteen shillings, and the journey occupied about six hours. The coaching house has now shared the fate of the stage coaches, both giving way before the advance of modern improvement. Mention must be made of several one-time residents of our thoroughfare. One of these individuals was the cause of an outburst of passion on the part of the Rev. Joshua Brookes. When an infant he was taken by his father, a man of Republican tendencies, to the Collegiate Church to be christened. On being asked the child's name the father replied, "Citizen." "Citizen," growled Joshua, "that's no name. I shall not give the child a name like that." "I've a right to call my child what name I please, and I dare you to baptise him otherwise," boldly asserted Mr. Cowdroy. "Oh,

yes, you may call him Beezlebug if you like," responded the chaplain. And Citizen—the boy was accordingly christened : and in later years he and William Rathbone issued the first number of the " Courier " or " Manchester Advertiser," from an office in Hanging Ditch. The paper bore the motto " This is not the cause of faction or of party, or any individual, but the cause of every man in Britain." The paper continued to be issued for several years, but in 1821, inasmuch as it did not meet the requirements of the party of reform, the first issue of the " Manchester Guardian " appeared on May 5, 1821, the price being sevenpence. In January, 1825, the present " Courier " was commenced. A neighbour of Cowdroy's was William Sudlow, a member of a musical family who were intimately associated with the Manchester concerts of a century ago. William Sudlow, senior, was a noted performer on the violin and violoncello. He died in 1802, and was succeeded in the business of music seller at 11, Hanging Ditch by his son, who was for many years organist at the Collegiate Church. Another member of the family, Edward Sudlow, was also an organist and taught music.

Another resident in Hanging Ditch was John Watson, druggist, whose son James was, a century ago, a well-known character in the town. He was one of those whose genius and ability are overclouded by a complete want of will power. Although possessed with a talent for the stage, which enabled him to take the lead in amateur theatricals and brought him in personal contact with many actors, amongst whom was G. F. Cooke, the eminent tragedian ; and also some literary

ability, as shown in his poems, published under the title of "The Spirit of the Doctor," his life was a complete failure. Appointed librarian when the Portico was opened in 1806, he soon lost the position in consequence of his drinking habits and neglect of duty.

The Corn Exchange familiar to the present generation, but pulled down a few years ago, was opened in January, 1837. Prior to that date the market was held at 21, Hanging Ditch, probably the old Corn Exchange building recently removed, and prior to that in the Spread Eagle yard.



ROUND THE "EVENING NEWS" OFFICE SITE.

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Although Cross-street is not one of the oldest street names in Manchester, there is associated with it a large amount of interesting information. Long before the present wide thoroughfare with its fine buildings was even thought of, there was a narrow country lane giving access to a fine moated hall that stood on the higher land now occupied by Pall Mall and the adjacent streets. Of the hall and its associations I shall have somewhat to say in my next article, as for the present we are concerned with the Market-street end of Cross-street.

When Joseph Aston was a schoolboy in the Manchester of a hundred and thirty years ago he lived with his parents in a house that stood in Market Stead Lane, and received his education at a school standing in a lane known as Pool Fold. The school occupied a portion of the site now marked by the Exchange steps. The house faced the lane, and in front of it was a garden which extended as far as Brown-street. The lane was, however, doomed very soon after this to lose its rural appearance, and as plot after plot of land was built upon it became gradually changed into a street of irregular width, and bearing various names. Thus, a century ago it was known as far as Chapel Walks as Pool Fold, from there to Back King-street it was called Cross-street, from thence to Tassel Alley the name was Red Cross-street, and finally it became Longworth's Folly, which

lay near to where the Friends' Meeting House now stands, and fields that are now represented by Albert Square and the Town Hall.

The opening into Market-street Lane was only narrow, and was not available for vehicular traffic ; in fact, on that side of Market-street there was no thoroughfare suitable for such purposes from Brown-street, then much narrower than it is to-day, to Exchange-street. From Pool Fold to Exchange-street were a number of old-fashioned, many being half-timbered, buildings, and a number of narrow passages giving access to the back premises. These included Fothergill's Court and Travis Court running out of the Market-street Lane, Crow Alley, which ran parallel to Bank-street, and a small area abutting on the last-named and bearing the expressive name of Mad Dog Yard. These were all situated on the area now covered by the Exchange. A portion of the site was cleared when the Exchange was built a century ago ; but it was another quarter of a century before Cross-street was formed. This improvement, which was commenced in 1831, resulted in the street being widened to the extent with which we are familiar.

As seventy years have elapsed since this and a number of other improvements were effected, it will be as well to remember that they were entered upon long before the incorporation of the town took place. The earliest of the improvements were carried into effect by the Police Commissioners ; but when the improvement of Market-street was decided upon a special committee, known as the "Market-street Improvement Com-

mission," was formed. The Police Commissioners were empowered to make improvements out of gas profits, but for some years they moved slowly. In 1828, as the Manchester Improvement Committee, they obtained very much increased powers, and rapidly extended the scope of their operations. Under the Police Commissioners widening was a slow operation, inasmuch as the available annual gas profits were small ; and only sections of streets could be dealt with. As a result the improvement of one side of a street would increase the value of the remaining property, and the Commissioners in order to complete the work they had commenced were compelled to pay very much enhanced prices for any further property required. One of the first improvements entered upon by the new Committee was the making of Cross-street. It may be mentioned incidentally that the entire cost of widening, including purchase of property from Market-street to Princess-street was £19,367, a sum which in the light of prices paid for land thereabouts to-day seems very small. Cross-street land, including buildings, was only worth about £5 per yard.

When the improvement was decided upon the entrance into Market-street was through a narrow passage with a room over. The room formed a portion of a somewhat ancient hostelry known as the Pack Horse. Beyond this were three small tenements, one of which had the half circular windows fitted with small panels of glass, now becoming so rare in our city. Adjoining the furthestmost of these shops was another narrow passage giving access to the new market. In Pool Fold was

for many years the shop of John Hopps, an eccentric bookseller. Old Hopps came of a farming stock in the North Riding of Yorkshire, but removed to London, where he carried on business as a silk mercer. Failure following a fire, he tried his luck at bookselling at Old Sarum, but soon came to Manchester, where he opened a bookseller's shop in Fennel-street, migrating afterwards to Pool Fold. Leaving his business to a son-in-law, he commenced farming at Worsley, but losing money he again resumed bookselling, taking a shop in Bridge-street. He died in 1822 at the age of eighty-two, and was buried in Flixton Churchyard. He was a remarkable man in several respects. Standing six feet three inches in height, he was perfectly straight, and the day before his death said that he had never felt the need of a walking stick. When at Pool Fold he would close his shop for several weeks at a time in order to enjoy a lengthened holiday in the country. On one occasion when ill he closed his establishment and placed the following notice on the shutters:—

I, John Hopp,
Can't come to my shop,
Because I, John Hopp, am ill ;
But I, John Hopp,
Will come to my shop,
When I, John Hopp, get well.

Just out of Pool Fold there formerly stood a quaint old building, whose thatched roof gave its name to the place. The old building has gone, its thatched roof is almost forgotten, but the name remains familiar to all Manchester men. A century ago, and even earlier, the old place was a popular resort, and on one of the views which have survived we see the old-time announce-

ment of "Home brewed beer." In the days when the townspeople used the inns for club purposes, and when anyone wishful to hear the latest news circulating in the town went to the Bull's Head or Newton's Coffee-house, or the Thatched House, the little inn was a popular resort. There is a story told that in the days of the Merry Monarch a rhymster, whose thirst was rather persistent, ran up a score which he was unable to liquidate in the usual manner. It is said that, pressed for payment, he offered to compromise the matter by writing a poetical inscription for the sign-board, then newly-painted. His offer was accepted, and he produced the following lines, which he submitted to the landlord :—

Ye farmer 'neath thatch keeps his stacks fro' the rain,
For elsewhere would perish his hay and his grain ;
But here we see men (what a contrary set)
Come under the thatch when they wish to get wet.

It is said that the landlord failed to appreciate the humour of the lines, and kicked the unlucky poet into the street.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century the number of stalls in Smithy Door and the amount of trade transacted there had increased so much that there was an urgent necessity to relieve the pressure upon the market. Therefore, about 1780 Thomas Chadwick and Holland Ackers purchased land in Pool Fold and erected thereon a market hall and provided 144 open stalls. The stalls covered the site of the "Guardian" office buildings. This was an infringement of the rights of the lord of the Manor, Sir John Parker Mosley, Bart., who entered an action against

Chadwick and Ackers. The case was tried at the Lent Assizes at Lancaster in 1782, when a verdict was returned for the plaintiff. The building and stalls were afterwards sold to the lord of the Manor, and the market was continued until 1803, when it was removed to Bridge street. The space that had been occupied by the stalls was gradually built upon, but the site of the market continued to be noted by the street name which has survived to our own time.

To the man of to-day the area under review is principally associated with journalism. This is one of those topics on which much could be said, but we must confine our notes to brief summaries. The "Guardian" naturally demands first notice. The first issue bore the date May 5, 1821. It was originally published weekly on Saturday at the price of sevenpence, and was printed and published at 28A, Market-street, by Jeremiah Garnett for John Edward Taylor. Its commencement arose out of the fine defence made by Mr. Taylor in a law suit tried at Lancaster 1819. Mr. Taylor conducted his own case, and secured his verdict, whereupon his friends urged him to commence a newspaper, they undertaking to supply the necessary funds, which they were only to be repaid in case of success. In 1825 Mr. Taylor purchased the "Manchester Mercury" and "British Volunteer," and for some time the paper appeared under the title of "Manchester Guardian and British Volunteer." Before the erection of the present building the "Guardian" was issued from a tumble-down structure from which were also issued 370 numbers of the "War Telegraph," owned by John

Bastow and edited by Mr. Barrow from November, 1854, to December, 1855. The "Manchester Evening News" owed its origin to the candidature of Mr. Mitchell Henry at a by-election in the city in 1868. Finding his meetings and proceedings not satisfactorily dealt with by the existing newspapers, he decided to commence the issuing of one of his own. The result was the issue of the first number of the new journal on October 10, 1868. The first number of the "Manchester City News" was issued on January 2, 1864, from an office now included in the "Guardian" building's site. Many other journals have been associated with the same district; but our final reference must be to the "Examiner and Times." At first issued as a weekly paper, at the price of fourpence, it dated from January 10, 1846, and bore the title of the "Manchester Examiner." In 1828 it absorbed the "Manchester Times," and the title was altered accordingly. In 1854 Mr. Henry Dunckley (Verax) was appointed Editor, and in 1855 it became a penny daily paper with the exception of Saturday's issues, which were charged threepence. In 1889 the paper was purchased by the Manchester Press Company, Limited, and was issued as a Unionist journal, but after various changes its final number appeared on March 10, 1894.



CROSS STREET MEMORIALS.

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When Manchester was emerging from the state of a large village to that of a prosperous town the land lying between Cross-street and Brown-street was occupied by Radcliffe Hall, a half-timbered mansion surrounded by orchards and fields. The building was of great importance to the growing community, and for several centuries members of the Radcliffe family took an active part in connection with the work of the Court Leet. The house, like many of the granges and halls of the black and white order, was moated round. Its high projecting chimneys were similar in character to those of Garratt Hall, another of the Manchester residences of the Elizabethian period. Admittance to the hall was obtained by means of a drawbridge from which a roadway led up to the principal entrance, flanked on either side by a garden. In an adjoining meadow was a pool fed by a running stream, where for many years was fixed the ducking stool, a form of punishment dealt out by our forefathers to scolding wives and women of ill-repute. The Court Leet who controlled all such matters, frequently dealt with the condition of the pond and stool, and we find that in October, 1590 "the duckstool is in great need of repair," and that in the following year complaint was made that William Radclyffe had not removed the "yearthe" that had been taken from the ditch supplying the pool. There had evidently been a change in the situation of the

stool tried prior to 1598, for the record of the meeting of the Court held in October of that year contains this reference, "The jury order and find that the old accustomed place is most convenient for the cooke-stool to stand in, and that Mr. William Radclyffe shall lay open the space again according as heretofore it hath been used, before Christmas next." Whether the order was complied with or not we do not know, but in 1602 the court desired the chief lord to "provide a cooke-stoole to be set up in some convenient place according as hath oftentimes been promised." It was probably after this that the ducking-stool was fixed up over one of the pits that lay just beyond the top of Market Stead Lane, and known as the Daubholes. Butterworth tells us that the drawbridge, together with the posts and chains, were taken away, and the moat probably filled up about 1672.

In 1642, when the Royalists under Lord Strange besieged Manchester, the defence of the town was undertaken by troops under Colonel Rosworne. Captain Radcliffe commanded the men to whom the defence of the Market Stead Lane approach was entrusted, and in later years the same gentleman was appointed member of Parliament for the town. The hall was still in the hands of the Radcliffes fifty years later, but in 1770 it was inhabited by Mrs. Patten, and in 1780 it was converted into two inns, the Sun and the King's Arms. In 1810 the house and some remaining ground was sold by Sir Oswald Mosley to Thomas Robinson, who pulled down the building, and erected on the site some warehouses.

Reverting now to the pond or pool (which gave the name to Pool Fold itself) previously mentioned, we find that in a deed dated 1694 mention is made of Plungeon field wherein it was situated. We also have a reference to Plungeon Lane, and we are told that William Plungeon was constable of the town from 1641 to 1648. We are further told that the Dissenters' meeting house, as Cross-street Chapel was originally called, was erected in 1694 in Plungeon Meadow. From this we gather that some time, probably not long, after the removal of the ducking stool the Radcliffes sold the meadow to someone of the name of Plungeon. Cross-street Chapel came into existence owing to the passing of the Toleration Act, being built for Henry Newcome, who had been ejected from a Fellowship at the Collegiate Church for refusing to comply with the Act of Uniformity passed in 1662. Little more than twenty years after its erection, the building was wrecked by a Jacobite mob headed by Tom Syddall; Parliament afterwards granted compensation to the amount of £1,000. In 1693 Nathaniel Gaskell was a member of the congregation. One of his daughters, Rebecca, married Mr. Clive and their son Robert is famous in history as the conqueror of India, and known as Lord Clive. Another daughter married Mr. Bayley, of Hope Hall, from whom there descended T. B. Bayley, who was High Sheriff in 1768, Lieutenant-Colonel of volunteers raised during the American War in 1774, and who, as chairman of the Salford magistrates, laid the foundation stone of the prison that formerly stood in and gave the name to New Bailey-street. The most prominent minister at

Cross-street during the nineteenth century was a descendant of Nathaniel Gaskell, William Gaskell, whose wife enriched Lancashire and English literature by her delightful novels. Many have been the famous names connected with the old place, but space will only permit reference to one other. The Rev. Ralph Harrison, after acting as minister for many years, died in 1810. He was a linguist and a musician, composing several hymn tunes including the well-known one named "Warrington." He commenced a school in a building behind the church and built for the purpose. In that building there also commenced the Literary Society that flourished for sixty years, and in connection with which Richard Cobden made his first speech. Mr. Harrison's daughter married Thomas Ainsworth, a well-known solicitor, and was the mother of William Harrison Ainsworth, whose name as a novelist shows few signs of diminution, and the centenary of whose birth in King-street will very shortly be celebrated.

Another of the cherished memories of Cross-street is connected with Dr. Charles White, whose house stood at the corner of King-street in the site now occupied by the Reference Library. In conjunction with Joseph Bancroft, Dr. White was instrumental in founding the Manchester Infirmary, first in a house in Garden-street, Shudehill, and afterwards on its present site. Dr. White is also well-known in connection with the mummified remains of Hannah Beswick, which for some time occupied a place in the natural history museum that formerly filled the building now known as the Y.M.C.A. in Peter-street. It may be noted that

the building known as the Reference Library was built by the Police Commissioners to serve the purposes of a Town Hall some years before the incorporation of the borough. These worthies strongly opposed the agitation that ended in the incorporation, and carried their opposition so far as to refuse the newly-formed Council permission to hold their meetings in the building. The earliest meetings of the Manchester Borough Council were therefore held at the York Hotel, that formerly stood next door to the Town Hall, higher up King-street. Matters were, however, amicably arranged soon afterwards, and the business of the Council was conducted in King-street until the erection of the building in Albert Square.

We cannot close our notes on Cross-street without a reference to the building that formerly stood at the corner of John Dalton-street. Without belonging to the oldest part of the town the Prince's Tavern was an interesting spot. It dated back about a century and a half, for we find that on May 26, 1749, an indenture was made between Samuel Dickenson and Samuel Clowes, of Broughton Hall, conveying from the former to the latter part of a certain fold "commonly known as Tasle Croft." Dickenson had purchased the land from Edward Bootle and Jonathan Stockton, the latter, who resided at Monton, being a land owner in other parts of the town, as his will, dated 1748, shows. When Clowes purchased the land he covenanted to pay a ground rent of 30s. per annum, and to put up a building known in latter days as the Prince's Tavern. In 1797 the son of Samuel Clowes by will demised the property

then in the occupancy of Thomas Swan to William Dinwiddie. It was probable that the fact that very friendly relationships existed between the Quincey, Clowes, and Dinwiddie families, that the story of the birth of the great essayist was associated with the house. In 1772 James Dinwiddie conducted business as a fustian manufacturer at Tib Lane, but in 1794 he was located at 4, Redcross-street. Between these dates Thomas de Quincey was born, and baptised at St. Ann's Church, the entry in the register being dated September 25, 1785. In 1805 the house was sold to Thomas Potter, cotton merchant, who in July, 1824, disposed of it to Francis Woodwiss for the sum of £2,200. In 1828 the name Prince's Tavern makes its appearance, the tenant being Beaumont Hodgson, a descendant of Brian Hodgson, who as proprietor of the Old Hall Hotel and baths at Buxton had been well-known sixty years before. In 1885 the property was sold by auction for £14,300; and four years ago its doors were finally closed.



THE STORY OF ST. ANN'S SQUARE

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Few parts of Manchester have a longer record of events than has the area known as St. Ann's Square and the land thereabouts. Although its modern name originated with the church that overlooks it, it had an earlier name which frequently finds a place in the records of our Court Leet. That name was Acresfield ; as to the derivation and meaning of which there are two distinct opinions. One writer derives it from Aca, a clerk or priest to whom Robert Greslet gave some land in Mamecestre nearly seven centuries ago ; but John Harland rather derives it from the Anglo-Saxon Cecer, plural, cecras, meaning field or fields. Which ever be correct the land so designated originally covered about six and a half acres, and comprised the present square and the land thereabouts. In the Court Leet records we read of Over Ackers, Nether Ackers, and Further Ackers, in addition to the Ackers ditch which ran into the great ditch, Ackers Barn, Acres Stile, Old Acres, and Acres Gates. Acres Court was the name of a narrow passage running from the Market Place to St. Ann's Square, prior to the making of Exchange-street.

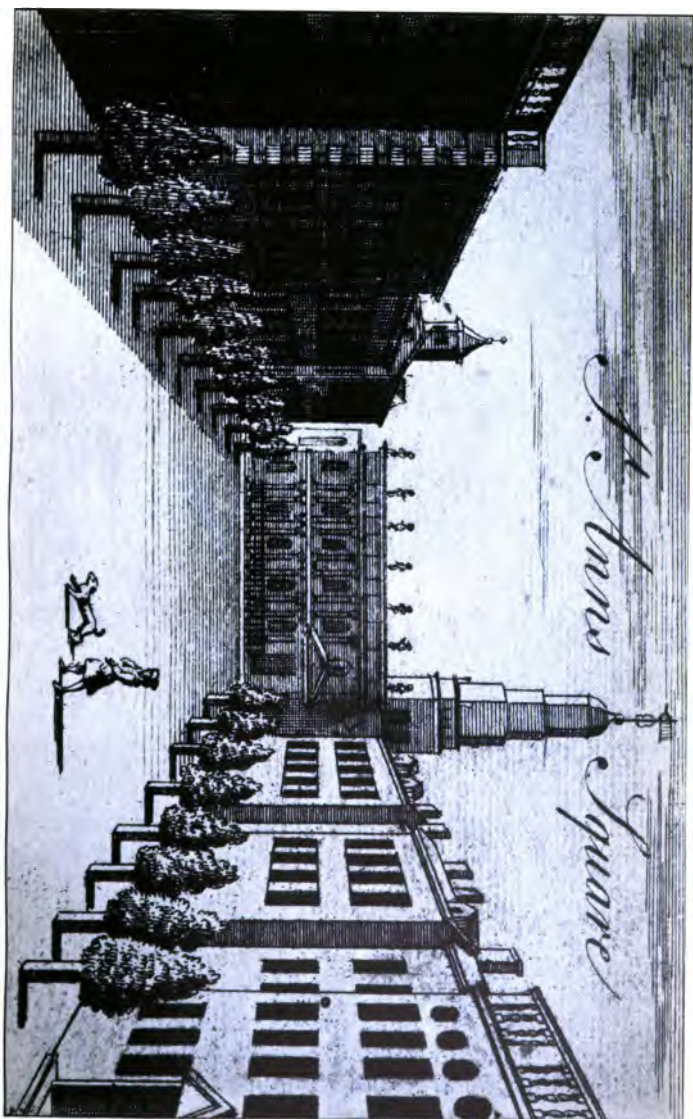
For many centuries the area was the site of an annual fair which, taking its name from the field, was known as Acres fair. The granting of the right to hold this fair takes us far back into the history of Manchester, for the third Henry, in 1227, granted to Robert Greslet, lord of the manor of Mamecestre, the right to hold a

fair on St. Matthew's Day and the two following days. When granted this would be September 20, 21, and 22, but when the new style of reckoning was adopted the dates became October 1, 2, and 3. The chief articles of sale were cattle, horses, and pigs, the tolls being collected by the Lord's officials as the animals entered a narrow lane leading from the ancient thoroughfare, Deansgate, to the fairground. The lane became known as Toll Lane, and continued to be called such until 1832, when it was widened and renamed St. Ann's street. In 1320 the tolls charged were : for every horse, mare, ox, cow, bull-calf, cow-calf, or swine, was 4½d. each. Not only had the Lord of the Manor the right to enter the Acres field for the purpose of holding the fair, but his officials were entitled to trample under foot growing crops not gathered in ; and inhabitants living in the early part of the last century remembered in late seasons seeing the crops hurriedly gathered in, to save them from destruction. It was also customary to leave the field open after the holding of the fair, until the second day of February. This does not seem to have been always observed by the person farming the land, for in 1586 the Court Leet complained that the custom had ceased to be carried out. What effect resulted from this action is not recorded ; but we are enabled to estimate somewhat of the condition of the Acres field at the opening of the eighteenth century by a pamphlet published in 1783. In it we read that the field, which was large, was almost surrounded by a ditch, and that buildings did not exist behind the Market Place shops. This means that most of the land occupied by Exchange and

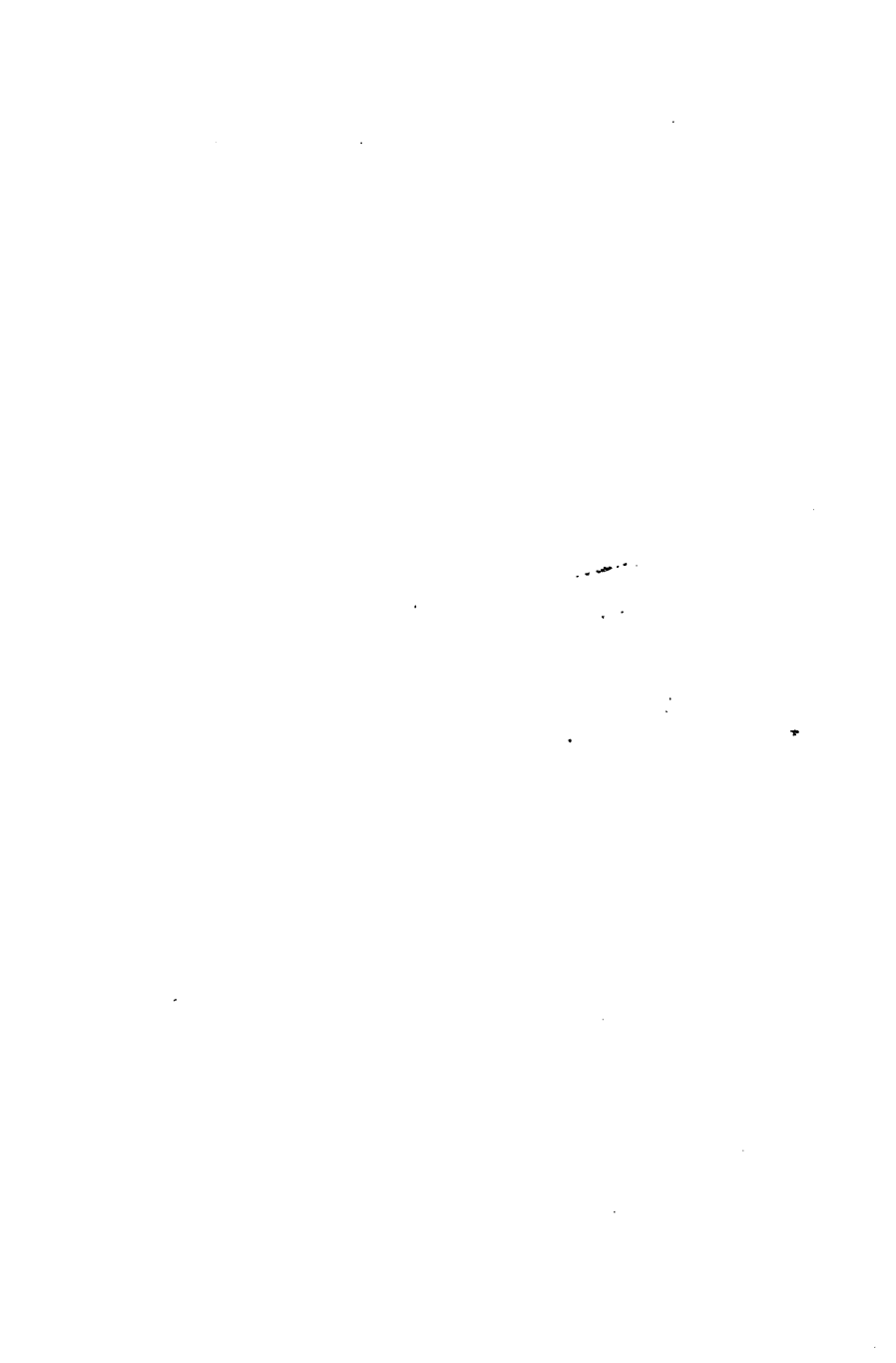
Bank-street and by Barton Arcade was open. The entrance to the field was an easy matter, and as the soil was very much trodden by the annual fair, the owner could neither occupy it himself nor let it to a tenant. He was therefore advised to give land for a church at the upper end, and sell the rest for building, reserving for a purpose of the fair the central portion of the field. Except when occupied by the fair this open space was to be used by the owners of the plots of land overlooking the field. Some time afterwards when a number of houses had been built, the owners used this right to eject certain butchers that the Lord of the Manor had placed there at stalls that he had set up.

The building of St. Ann's Church produced a rapid change, and the lower portion of King-street, Ridge Field, and Brazennose-street was planned and built up. Houses were also built on both sides of the Square, a space of thirty yards across being left open. In 1718 trees, protected by framework, were planted, and remained until 1822. For many years the Square was one of the most fashionable residential areas in the town. In 1745 when Charles Edward Stuart, the Pretender, was here, he reviewed his troops in the Square on November 29. As they entered the Square it was observed that the funeral service over the remains of the Rev. Joseph Hoole was being conducted, and many of the officers, removing their bonnets, joined in the service. On the same night the bold Pretender having been proclaimed James III., there were illuminations in the principal streets of the town, including the Square.

Prior to 1788 the approach from the Exchange and



ST. ANN'S SQUARE IN 1745.



the Market Place to St. Ann's Square was about as mean and bad as could be imagined. Foot passengers made their way through a narrow passage, over which ran a portion of the old coffee house rooms. So dark and dismal was the passage, even at midday, that it became known as the "Dark Entry." Townsfolk who knew its nature, paused before entering, to make sure that no person was coming in that direction, as such an incident as two persons meeting in the middle of the passage might have very serious results. For vehicles there was a second covered passage, at the entrance of which stood a cobbler's stall. Over the stalls were stairs leading to the coffee house, the rooms of which extended over several shops facing into the Market Place. Such was the state of affairs when in 1776 an Act of Parliament was obtained which empowered the Commissioners thereby appointed to make a new street between the southerly side of the Exchange and St. Ann's Square. The result was the making of Exchange-street.

When Napoleon was disturbing the peace of Europe, Manchester shared in the general excitement, and corps of volunteers were raised. The parades often took place in the Square. An old resident of St. Ann's-street, in the course of her reminiscences, speaking of the fair held in 1814, says :—" All the shops had to be closed," for shops had commenced to take the place of houses, "and cattle and pigs occupied the flags and roadways, until one o'clock, when those that were not sold were driven away to make room for horses." " The Beech and Hawthorn, the Lord Hill in St. Ann's-street,

and the Half-Moon all did a roaring trade on the fair days, particularly the Half-Moon, which was kept by a very fat brewer named Acton, commonly called Billy Acton, who was celebrated all over the town for brewing good, bright and sparkling beer." The fair became a serious source of loss as well as a great nuisance to the shopkeepers, with the result that Sir Oswald Mosley, the lord of the manor, removed it in 1823 to Knott Mill. In those days the king's birthday was celebrated in grand style in the town, "the boroughreeve and constables meeting the gentlemen of the town in the Square just before noon. The calvary stationed here, then marched into the Square and formed round it, the gentlemen being in the middle, surrounding two large tables covered with wine glasses and decanters, in order that the gentlemen and officers might drink the King's Health. Immediately after this a feu-de-joie was fired by the regular troops, followed by another by the yeomanry cavalry ; and the day was finished by a public dinner in the Exchange dining-room." Another occasion when military were present in the Square was on the afternoon of August 16, 1819, when, after the scenes enacted on St. Peter's Field, the Scott's Greys made it their headquarters, pitching their tents in the Square, from whence they assisted in the patrolling of the streets during the following night.

For many years the Square witnessed annually a more peaceful gathering together, for it formed the meeting place of the Sunday scholars taking part in the Whit Monday procession. When the first gathering took place, 2,500 scholars took part, and after the

procession the teachers were supplied with bread and cheese. A year later the refreshment provided consisted of a dinner and a quart of ale, for which, a few years afterwards, a shilling was substituted. The last gathering in St. Ann's Square took place in 1878.

Still another historical association with the Square was the nomination of candidates for Parliament. This took place on hustings specially erected for the purpose. The first of these occasions was on Wednesday, December 12, 1832, when the candidates appeared in a procession led up by a band of music. The Boroughreeve (Mr. Benjamin Braidley, a Bennett-street School worthy) took the chair. The shops were all closed, and the Square was filled with an excited crowd. After an attempt had been made to secure order, the various candidates addressed the crowd, amidst the shouts and cheers of friends and opponents. After the speeches the names were put to vote, and Mr. Braidley declared the result to be in favour of the reds and greens, which decision was ridiculed by the blues. In the end Messrs. Mark Philips and Charles Poulett Thomson were elected. The hustings scene was repeated at each Parliamentary election until the adoption of the Ballot Act brought about a more orderly manner of conducting election contests.

In 1867 the statue to the memory of Richard Cobden was erected and uncovered by George Wilson, who, as chairman of the Council of the Anti-Corn Law League, had been closely associated with the great Free Trade leader in his work. There have been many well-known names connected with the buildings that overlook the Square, but I must defer reference to them to a further chapter.

KING STREET A CENTURY AGO.

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Writing in 1795, Dr. Aitken gives a few interesting features of the social life of the town in his own time and in that of the preceding generation. In those days the district round about King-street was entirely residential, and was occupied by many of the best and most wealthy families in the town. Speaking of the houses our author says they "displayed a new style of light and convenient rooms, very different from those of the rest of the town." This was caused by having larger rooms with larger windows. He also tells us that the front parlours were formerly reserved for company only, a fashion which he says "continued to our own times, and in all small houses subsists in some degree at present." And in this year of grace (1905) we find the fashion still in vogue. Referring to King-street more particularly, he mentions the establishment of a dancing assembly, for the holding of which Lady Ann Bland erected "a handsome room upon pillars, leaving a space beneath to walk in," which passage also formed a convenient way to the new churchyard. St. Ann's Church was for many years spoken of as the new church, to distinguish it from the older building, the Collegiate Church. The passage referred to is known as St. Ann's passage, and the new building bears the name of the "Old Exchange." The latter name appears to have arisen from the fact that after the pulling down of the first Exchange building in 1792,

and before erection of the second one in 1805, business men met in the room erected by Lady Bland. The passage itself forms a portion of an ancient field path which ran from the land owned by William Hulme, the founder, on which Brazennose and the adjacent streets were built, to the land also owned by Hulme, and known as the Acker's Field. Dr. Aitken says that the dancing assembly was held once a week at the low price of half-a-crown a quarter ; and that the ladies had their maids to come with lanthorns and pattens to conduct them home ; nor was it unusual for their partners also to attend to them. What a picture of the social life of the town have we presented to us here ; and in imagination we can see the daughters of the prosperous manufacturers daintily picking their way through the badly-lighted narrow streets of the town.

Originally the name of King-street was applied only to the portion of the thoroughfare lying below Pall Mall, and when the portion from Pall Mall to Brown-street was laid out it was known as St. James's Square, the topmost portion being called St. James's-street. It was intended that the Square should vie with St. Ann's Square as a residential centre. In those days (1741) political feeling ran high in the town, and as the land round St. Ann's Square was held largely by the supporters of the Hanoverian cause, the Jacobites adopted the tactics named in order to perpetuate the name of their exiled Prince James, the elder Pretender. This arrangement did not long survive the disaster of 1745, and long before the close of the century the general name of King-street was applied to the entire length of the thoroughfare.

The oldest building in the street is the one known as the District Bank. It carries us back into the early years of George the Third, and in spite of the changes it has seen on every hand, to the passer-by it presents the same appearance that it did a century ago. It has a long and interesting story, but we will confine ourselves to a brief sketch. In 1789 a young man named Lewis Loyd came to Manchester to finish his studies preparatory to joining the Unitarian ministry. He was drawn here by the Manchester Academy that had been opened in 1786 in a building that stood near the bottom of Mosley-street. In later years it became known as Manchester College, and is to-day called Manchester New College, Oxford. Not only did Loyd continue his studies here, but he joined the teaching staff, which included such fine scholars as Dr. John Dalton and Dr. Barnes, and taught the subject then styled the Belles Lettres, but now known as Literature. In addition to this he undertook pulpit work, preaching on Sundays at Dob Lane Chapel from 1789 to 1792, and occasionally he officiated at Blackley. At Dob Lane he met Samuel Taylor, a successful merchant, who rapidly imbued the preacher with the idea of accumulating wealth. Whilst at Blackley he met Sarah Jones, whose father was a banker at the King-street house. Marrying her, he was admitted to a partnership in the banking business. The Jones family for many years combined the business with that of tea dealing ; and in Manchester's first directory, we find that John Jones and Co. were tea dealers and bankers at 104, Market-street Lane. The father died three years

later, and the sons, giving up the tea business, removed their bank to King-street. When Loyd joined the concern, the style of the firm was changed to Jones, Loyd, and Co. Three of Loyd's brothers followed him from Carmarthenshire to Manchester, and one of them, Edward, became a clerk in the bank. In 1809 he married a neice of Mr. Taylor, previously referred to, and resided at the bank. Lewis Loyd had one son, who afterwards became Lord Overstone, and who was an unsuccessful Parliamentary candidate for Manchester in 1832. He died in 1883, aged 87 years. In 1821 William Jones retired from the bank, as Lewis Loyd had previously done ; and Edward Loyd, already a partner, became sole proprietor. When he retired in 1848 he was succeeded by Edward Loyd, junior, W. Entwistle, H. Bury, and J. B. Jarvis ; and finally in 1863 the concern was taken over by the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company.

At the bottom of King-street there stood for many years the police office which gave the name to Police-street. In those days King-street did not open into Deansgate, but across the bottom stood the stables and yard of a carrier. Aston says that Manchester's first theatre was a wooden erection that occupied the site afterwards covered by the police office. In that office, a century ago, Joseph Nadin ruled supreme. As we have previously seen, the Lord of the Manor and the Court Leet were concerned in the Municipal government of the town. The maintenance of the peace was in the hands of two constables. These were leading citizens appointed by the Court Leet. These gentlemen appointed

a deputy, who had sole charge of police matters. Instead of the smart officers of to-day, the deputy was assisted by a number of constables who bore a strong resemblance to Dogberry. These worthies, whose costume included coats of a brown colour corded with crimson, were not noted for the celerity of their movements. To compensate for this, Nadin organised a number of runners, whose chief object in life seemed to be to hunt down politicians who advocated Reform. In this capacity they were known to Sam Bamford, who has left us his impressions of them. During the twenty years that he held office Nadin earned the ill-will of all earnest Radicals, whose movements were watched and reported by a number of spies. Another old resident has described how a half-starved man was placed in the pillory that formerly stood opposite to the old shambles in the Market Place, at midday, and was pelted by a crowd of onlookers for the space of an hour, being more dead than alive when removed, whose political opinions were the only offence charged against him. Nadin's association with the scene at Peterloo still further intensified the feeling against him, and no single reformer regretted his retirement after about twenty years' service. The police affairs of the town were conducted from Police-street until the erection of the Town Hall in 1825.

At a house that formerly stood two doors above where the Reference Library stands to-day Harrison Ainsworth, whose centenary has just been celebrated, was born ; and nearly opposite to it lived Samuel Greg, fustian manufacturer, whose son Robert Hyde was

born there. The latter was elected M.P. for Manchester in 1839 under peculiar circumstances, which will be dealt with in the next chapter. Another son was Samuel Greg, born in 1804, and who published several works ; and a third, W. R. Greg, is well known as the author of "The Creed of Christendom" (1851), "The Enigmas of Life" (1872), and "Rocks Ahead" (1874). Opposite to the Gregs' was the house of Dr. Thomas Percival, where the first meetings of the Literary and Philosophical Society, of which he was the first president, were held. Dr. William Henry lived close by. He was one of the first secretaries of the Literary and Philosophical Society, published an important work on chemistry, and was the personal friend of Jeffries, Brougham, and other celebrities. At 96, King-street, Dr. Edward Holmes lived for many years. He came to Manchester in 1794 and commenced practice, and was for thirty-four years a physician at the Infirmary. He was the first president of the Chetham Society, and died in 1847. Then there were the Touchets, Thomas and John, distant relations of the Ainsworths, who were prominently associated with the Cross-street Chapel.

At the corner of Chancery Lane lived the Misses Hall, in whose back garden was the well-known rookery occupying two poplar trees ; and whose brother removed the heads of Syddall and Deacon from the roof of the first Exchange, where they were placed in 1746. John Wheeler, the proprietor of "Wheeler's Chronicle," known to his familiar friends as "Chronicle Jack," lived just below Dr. Holmes's house. These were a few of the residents of King-street when, a century ago,

Harrison Ainsworth was receiving the attentions of his family and nurse. One of the last of the houses to be pulled down was that of John Touchet, that faced down the street, and which was known to later generations as the Albion, and later still as the Bridgewater Club.



KING STREET IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

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Amongst the features of residential districts few are more striking than the tendency shown by medical men to live in certain thoroughfares. Take the case of Oxford Road to-day, and Piccadilly in the forties, as examples, and many others will occur to the minds of the readers acquainted with our cities and more important towns. Sixty years ago King-street supplied an illustration, but the profession represented was the legal instead of the medical. Great changes were taking place, houses were being built in the suburbs, and better class people were removing out of town. King-street had its share of these changes, and whereas at the commencement of the century it was a high-class residential thoroughfare, in the late thirties and the forties it was very much affected by members of the legal profession. In 1838 there were in Manchester 170 solicitors and barristers, of which 45 were to be found in King-street, Back King-street, and St. James's Square.

Next to solicitors the street soon came to be recognised as a banking centre. In 1826, the same year in which Samuel Brooks opened Cunliffe Brooks and Co.'s bank in Market-street, the local branch of the Bank of England was opened in King-street. For over twenty years the two banks conducted business on the premises named, and then came a double change. Finding the premises

too small for their requirements the Bank of England authorities purchased land lower down the street and erected on the site the present premises. The older building was purchased by Samuel Brooks, whose intention was to pull it down and build a more commodious one in its stead. Before this was done, but soon after the Bank of England had removed, Brooks' premises in Market street were burnt down. This necessitated the immediate transference of the business to King-street, and as a result the building as we see it to-day is as it was sixty years ago, with the exception of internal alterations. The Manchester and Salford Bank commenced operations on August 15, 1836, next door but one above Pall Mall. The directors afterwards purchased the Unitarian Chapel that formerly stood where the tailoring establishment of Messrs. Nichol now stands in Mosley-street, and erected the building now standing. In 1862 they once again removed, this time to the well-known premises standing at the corner of York-street. Other banks connected with King-street include the Manchester and County, who removed from York-street to the site next door to the Town Hall, previously occupied by the York Hotel, and the Lancashire and Yorkshire, which commenced business in 1864, at 73 and 75, with a capital of £1,000,000.

Ranking high for the interest attaching to it was the York Hotel, where many important meetings were held. Of these several are worthy of special mention. The first of these were those held in the early days of Manchester's incorporation. I have referred previously to the police office that stood at the bottom of King-

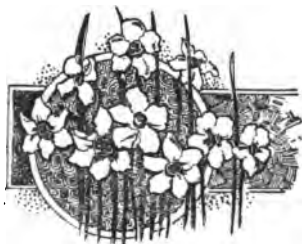
street, and from which the town was policed, &c., until the erection of the Town Hall. In those days the government of the town was largely vested in certain police commissioners, whose powers had been gradually increased by successive acts of Parliament. The qualification necessary for a seat on the commission was the ownership or occupation of premises rated at £30 a year. In 1820 the commissioners decided to build a new Town Hall, and purchased the house formerly occupied by Dr. White, and which stood at the corner of King-street and Cross-street. Early in February, 1821, the old mansion, to which reference has been previously made, was pulled down, and in 1825 the new building was opened. Thirteen years later as a result of a successful agitation a charter of incorporation was received, and on December 14, 1838, the first municipal elections were held in Manchester. Not only did a section of the community oppose the prayer for incorporation, but at the elections that followed they refused to nominate any candidates, with the result that the whole of the councillors were liberal in politics. Not content even with this they insisted on regarding the new council as an illegal body, refused to recognise Joseph Heron as the Town Clerk, and further refused permission to the council to hold their meetings in the Town Hall. I have before me a copy of the "Manchester Guardian" for January 12, 1839, containing a six column report of a meeting of the Police Commissioners held in the Town Hall to consider the question. Proceedings commenced at 11 o'clock, the Boroughreeve being in the chair, and 194 com-

missioners being present. Thomas Hopkins moved that the Council should be allowed to use such room or rooms in the Town Hall as might be necessary for the transaction of their business. This was seconded by John Kenworthy. An amendment declaring "that it is inexpedient to grant this application" was moved by James Consterdine, and seconded by Thomas Read. Succeeding speakers were S. Fletcher, E. Nightingdale, T. Flintoff, James Wroe, A. Prentice, James Crossley (who rose at 1-30), G. W. Wood, M.P., and Mr. Milne ; and a vote was taken, the amendment being carried by a majority of ten.

It was under these circumstances that the first meetings of the Council were held at the York Hotel. Matters were afterwards arranged, and in 1841 the validity of the charter was confirmed by the judges in the Court of Queen's Bench. It was not till 1845 that the last Boroughreeve was elected. The last Council meeting in the old Town Hall was held on January 31, 1877. Another movement connected with the York Hotel was the Anti-Corn Law League, which was founded at a meeting held on September 24, 1838. Less than a dozen persons attended, but at a further meeting held at the same place on January 10, 1839, nearly £2,000 was promised towards carrying out the policy of the newly-formed association. The meetings were afterwards held at Newall's Buildings. At the York Hotel was also held the first meeting of the Manchester Geological Society under the presidency of Lord Francis Egerton, afterwards first Earl of Ellesmere.

The Chamber of Commerce occupied rooms in Town Hall buildings for many years, and in 1846 the members held their first annual meeting there under the presidency of Thomas Bazley. Another commercial movement of forty years ago should be mentioned. In April, 1865, the prospectus of the Manchester New Exchange Company, Limited, was issued, bearing on its front page a list of the promoters, amongst which were included such names as Armitage, Ashton, Behrens, Bannerman, Heugh Balfour, Joshua Hoyle, Henry, Kessler, Daniel Lee, Sam Mendel, John Munn, James MacLaren, Samuel Ogden, Rylands, Slagg, Watts, and Westhead. The object was to build a new Exchange, and for the purpose the site of the present Reform Club, together with land extending as far as the Clarence Hotel was purchased. The capital was £400,000, and it was estimated that the cost of land and buildings would be half that amount. Ultimately the site was purchased for £127,255, but the new Exchange was never built, the company being wound up. Although abandoned, the scheme was not attended by any serious financial loss, as shareholders received for the £11 per share paid a sum of £13 2s. 8½d. The liquidators' report is dated October 7, 1871, and is signed by Charles Potter, Samuel Watts, Richard Johnson, W. H. Wilkinson, and Thomas Haywood. A few days later the Reform Club, built on a portion of the site named, was opened with a dinner at the club and a banquet at the Free Trade Hall.

At number 51 Jasper Fletcher carried on an auctioneer's business. He was commissioned to sell the animals and fixtures that formed the Zoological Gardens, that stood in Higher Broughton Road. Many of the animals were purchased by Mr. Jennison, who formed forthwith the nucleus of the present collection at Belle Vue. At 46 a well-known character, Joseph Gale, was for some time a print seller. A man of Bohemian tendencies, he was not a success in business, having amongst other experiments acted as an auctioneer, and later as a hatter in Ducie Place. In the latter capacity he introduced a novelty in the way of advertising, keeping a barrel of beer on tap, which together with bread and cheese he supplied free to customers. This was probably the earliest form of "free lunch" introduced in the city.



AROUND ST. ANN'S SQUARE.

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ST. ANN'S CHURCH.

The foundation stone of St. Ann's Church was laid on May 18, 1709, by Lady Ann Bland, daughter of Sir Edward Mosley, of Hulme Hall, and lady of the manor; the site being given by William Baguley, executor of the estate of William Hulme. The church was dedicated on July 12, 1712, by Sir William Dawes, Bishop of Chester. As originally built, the tower was surmounted by a cupola, which was removed in 1777, and the tower was finished off as we see it to-day. The first rector was the Rev. Nathaniel Bann, and amongst his successors was the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Smith, who was also head master of the Grammar School; whilst from its pulpit John Wesley preached in 1753. Buried in the adjacent churchyard are the remains of the father and two sisters of Thomas de Quincey, who was himself baptised in the church, his name being entered in the Church Register. Until December 11, 1736, the register of baptisms, marriages, and burials was kept at the Collegiate Church, but on that date a new register was opened in St. Ann's Church. When the church was built the churchyard was not enclosed, with the result that a century ago it was little better than a plague spot, all manner of nuisances being connected with it. In 1818 this disgraceful state of things was remedied by the erection of railings round the area, a footway being preserved round it.

RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES IN 1715.

When the church was built political and religious feeling ran high, and as the old or Collegiate Church was associated with the High Church or Tory party, the new one was regarded as a rallying centre for the Low Church or Whig party ; those who favoured the Hanoverian succession being the Dissenters, who worshipped at the Meeting House in Cross-street. This resulted in the riotous attack upon the Meeting House when the Jacobites found that George would adhere to the Toleration Act. In those days when the inns were resorted to for social purposes as clubs are to-day, the Tories had their headquarters in the Bull's Head Inn in the Market Place, the Whigs rallying at the Angel Inn in Marketstead Lane. Amongst the political ladies of the town Madame Drake was the leader of fashion of the Tory party, whilst Lady Bland occupied a similar position in the Whig section. Between these two ladies there was much rivalry, and it is said that on one occasion Lady Bland was so much incensed by the ostentatious display of Stuart tartan made by her rival on her carriage and four horses that she led the ladies who met at her assembly in King-street, decked with orange blossoms, into the street, where they danced by moonlight. Leaving the ladies so occupied, we turn our attention to another interesting reminiscence of the square.

OLD BANKING FIRMS.

On December 2, 1771, the Manchester Bank was opened at the corner of St. Ann's Square and Bank-street, giving the name to the street, and was conducted

by Byrom, Sedgwick, Allen, and Plaice. In 1773 Edward Byrom died, and the firm became Allen, Sedgwick and Co. Eight years later Allen alone conducted the business, but during the great commercial crisis of 1788 he failed, and the concern was wound up. A few months later the Heywoods, a well-known Liverpool banking firm, opened a bank in Exchange-street, removing soon afterwards to the corner of Marsden Square. In 1794 they purchased Allen's premises, but in 1796 they finally settled at the corner of Queen-street, now St. Ann-street, and the Square. When Benjamin Heywood died he was succeeded by his sons Benjamin, Arthur, and Nathaniel, the last-named residing at the bank. He married Miss Percival, and had a son Benjamin who joined the firm in 1815, the year of his father's death. Benjamin was created a baronet in 1837, and in later years his four sons became partners, Oliver in 1847, Arthur Henry in 1848, Edward Stanley in 1851, and Charles James in 1857. Sir Benjamin retired in 1860, and the firm became Heywood Brothers and Co., by which name it continued to be known until in 1874, when it was taken over by the District Bank. The name of Heywood has been so long associated with deeds of philanthropy that to attempt to enumerate them would fill more space than a short article could possibly allow. From 1825, when Benjamin Heywood originated and matured the idea that resulted in the opening of the Mechanics' Institution, onwards, every movement that has had the spread of education, the relief of suffering, and the raising of the moral tone of the city has had their generous support.

THE POST OFFICE IN 1801.

The system of sending letters from Manchester to distant places was in full swing in 1721, when the "mail" left for London three times a week; but so slow was the rate of progress in travelling that under the best possible circumstances the time required for an interchange of communication between the two towns was eight days. The postal system at first developed very slowly, and in 1790 the whole of the work of the Manchester office was performed by Mrs. Sarah Willert and two clerks. In that year the office stood at the corner of Toll Lane and St. Ann's Square, and it was mentioned as a remarkable circumstance that Manchester paid £11,000 in postages, that being a larger amount than was paid by any other provincial town.

The postmistress died on December 25, 1801, and she was succeeded by Joseph Harrop, whose newspaper the "Manchester Mercury" had nearly completed its fiftieth year of publication, and who removed the Post Office to his shop in Market Place. The building occupied a site now partly covered by the front window of Beaty's shop, and partly by the pavement. In 1830 it was back again in the St. Ann's Square district, occupying a low, shabby building in Ducie Place, opposite to the back part of the Exchange. A few years later the latter building was extended, absorbing a portion of Ducie Place, after which the Post Office occupied the back part of the Exchange building, and was then approached from Crow Alley. In 1840 the first Brown-street Post Office was erected.

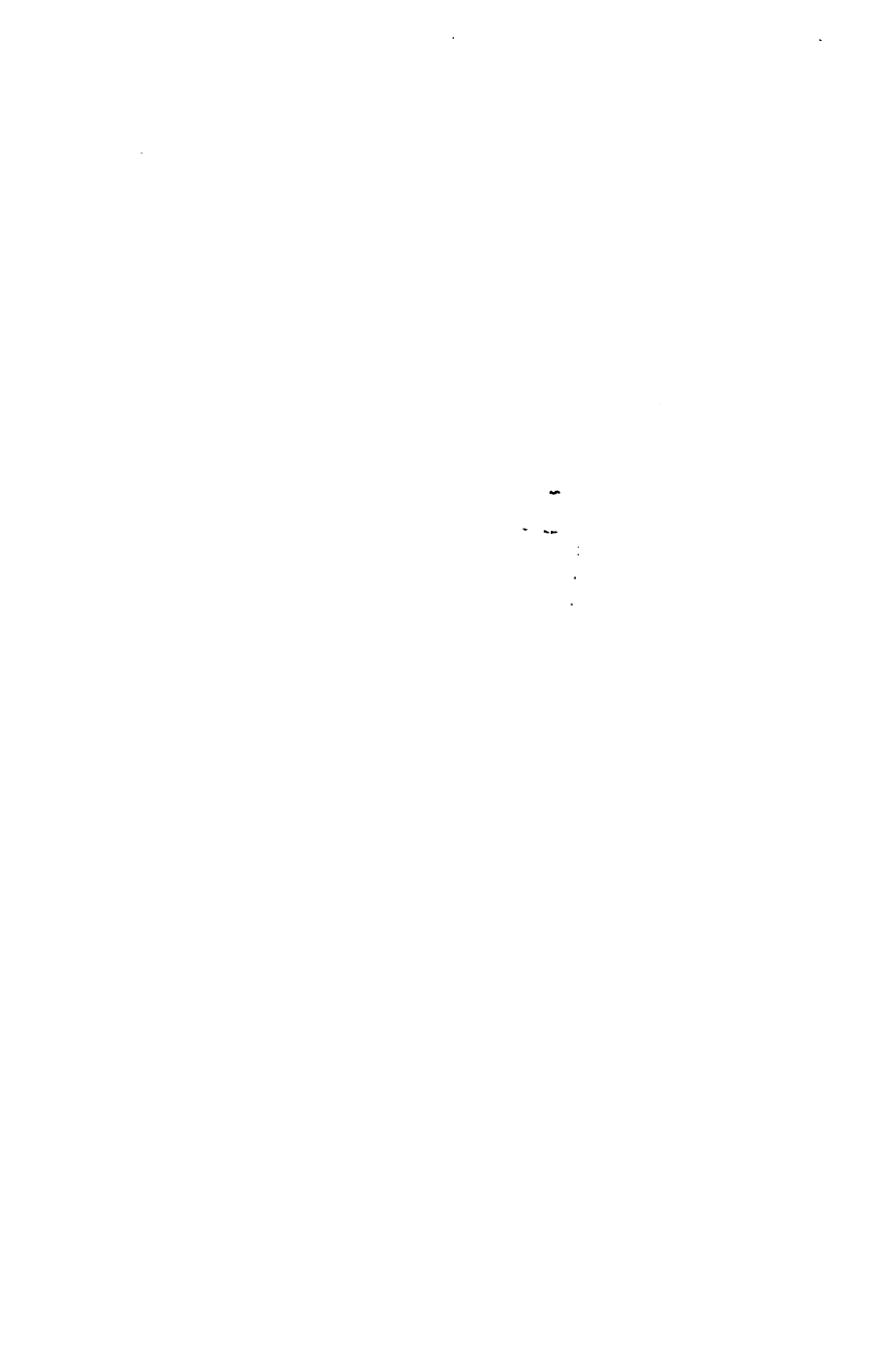
A FEW OLD FIRMS.

Perhaps the oldest business in the Square is that of Satterfield's. In 1788, John Satterfield was in business in Exchange-street, and one of the pews in St. Mary's Church had a brass plate bearing his name with the same date. In 1794 he removed to St. Ann's Square and occupied at least a portion of the premises held by the firm to-day. Amongst the many persons who have found employment at the well-known drapery establishment was Robert Owen, who in later years became famous as a philanthropist and reformer. Perhaps next in age, although not now in the Square, was the firm of Binyon's, the tea dealers. The business was commenced in 1817 by the two brothers, Thomas and Edward, grandsons of the Kendal banker, who had financed Richard Arkwright when he commenced in the cotton trade. Another brother, Benjamin, was partner in the firm of Binyon and Taylor, twine manufacturers, Hollinwood, and lived with his sister Deborah, who kept a draper's shop in Piccadilly ; whilst two sisters, Hannah and Ann, kept the tea shop in Market-street Lane. The family were well-known Quakers. The pile of buildings in London Road, known as Borough buildings, were erected by Alfred Binyon (a cousin of the above), who had married a daughter of Thomas Hoyle, of the Mayfield Printworks, and had become a partner in the concern.

Another well-known name was that of Thomas Sowler, who on January 1st, 1825, issued from his shop in St. Ann's Square the first number of the " Manchester Courier." The stamp duty in those days was fourpence, and the price of the paper was sevenpence.

It consisted of a four page sheet, the size of the pages being about 22in. by 16in. Let us glance at the sheet that cost our grandfathers so much. There are five columns to a page. The front page is filled with advertisements, one column being devoted to an announcement of a volume, "The Literary Souvenir," by Alaric A. Watts, a member of the "Courier" staff. The second page is occupied by four more columns of advertisements, and a portion of the leading article. In the news columns we read of the arrest of "the noisy zealot, O'Connell," of a music meeting at Mossley, and the eighth report of the committee of the Manchester Royal Institution. Two columns of advertisements and three of literary contributions complete the paper. Taking as a whole, it compares very badly with an issue of the "Evening News." Two years later its issue was 2,635 copies.

For a few years Charles Swain kept a bookseller's shop in Ducie Place, his first poetical effort having previously appeared in the columns of the "Manchester Iris," published by Henry Smith and Brothers, whose office was in the Square. Swain was born in Ancoats on January 4, 1801, and died in September, 1874. As a poet, Swain had a great admirer in Robert Southey, who predicted that "if Manchester is not proud of him now, the time will come when it will be." A portrait of Swain by Bradley may be seen in the entrance hall of the reference Library. Another bookseller was Robert Robinson, who occupied a shop in St. Ann's Place in 1829. Prior to this he had been in partnership with Thomas Bent, who had gone to London, and there established Bent's Literary Advertiser. Robinson was related to the wife of Sir Benjamin Heywood.





OLD BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

BLACKFRIAR'S BRIDGE AND THERE-ABOUTS.

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THE BRIDGE.

Manchester's second bridge over the Irwell originated in a curious manner. In 1761 a company of actors who had been refused permission to open a second theatre in Manchester, took a riding school that formerly stood in Water-street, Salford, and opened it as a theatre. Water-street was a narrow thoroughfare running from Chapel-street to the river bank, and for a short distance is represented by the present Blackfriars-street. On the Manchester side of the river a narrow court, the Ring o' Bells entry, ran off Deansgate, immediately opposite to St. Mary's Gate. A few yards away was the Rose and Crown entry, which ran parallel with it, the two passages leading to the street now known as the Parsonage. When the players settled in Salford they built a wooden footbridge across the river, running from near the bottom of the Ring o' Bells entry to the end of Water-street for the convenience of their Manchester patrons, who otherwise would have been compelled to go round by the old bridge. Owing to the rocky bank of the river on the Manchester side it was necessary to erect a flight of twenty-nine steps leading down to the bridge. The name given to the bridge was very probably selected by the players in remembrance of the Blackfriars Theatre, where William Shakespere and his friends entertained the London citizens of Queen Elizabeth's time. Although intended for

temporary use only, the bridge stood for over half a century, when increasing population and traffic demanded the provision of a more substantial one.

Therefore it was that in 1817 an Act of Parliament was passed giving the necessary powers, and an attempt was made to raise the requisite funds. A second attempt was more successful, £20,000 being raised in £50 shares, and on January 4, 1819, the first stone of the new bridge was laid by Thomas Fleming. The same gentleman opened it on August 12, 1820, his carriage being the first vehicle to pass over the bridge. The shareholders in order to reimburse themselves for their expenditure imposed a toll on vehicles using the bridge, but also upon pedestrians. In periods of distress this was the cause of much hardship among the poorest persons, who used the bridge in going to and from their work, and in the "hungry forties" Dr. Fleming, the son of Thomas Fleming, told the bar-keeper that when he heard the early morning bells ring he must remain in bed, and also arrange not to see the operatives who passed until after seven o'clock. In 1847 as a result of public agitation the sum of five thousand pounds was raised by public subscription in order to free the bridge from tolls. The Flemings surrendered their seventy-five shares, and a few other subscribers followed suit. In the end the bridge was made free to all on March 11, 1848.

THE FIRST METHODIST PREACHING ROOM.

Fourteen years before the players built the wooden bridge, a number of young men met in the garret of

an old cottage that stood upon the rocky bank of the river, with its front door facing up the Rose and Crown entry. They were followers of the great revivalist of those days, the Rev. John Wesley, and when their great leader visited Manchester in 1747 he visited the court with the intention of conducting service in the tumble-down room. In anticipation of the visit so large a crowd had assembled that Wesley deemed it unwise to enter the building, and he consequently led the way over Salford Bridge to the cross that then stood opposite to the Bull's Head Inn, Greengate, and from the steps of the cross he conducted service. In a few years it was necessary to secure more accommodation for the increasing congregations, and as a result Manchester's first Wesleyan Chapel was built in Birchin Lane. In 1805 the old cottage and other property was taken down, and Bateman's Buildings erected on the site, which in their turn have made way for more modern erections.

AN EARLY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

Another early place of worship connected with the neighbourhood was one used by the Roman Catholics. Rather more than a century and a half ago a dyehouse stood on the river bank, just out of Parsonage, and was approached by a flight of steps, very probably the Press House Steps so recently removed. Those were the days of persecution, and it was necessary to have sentinels posted at the top of the steps in Parsonage to give warning in case priest hunters put in an appearance. The flock was probably visited frequently by the Rev.

Edward Helme, who in 1753 removed the meeting place to a room just out of High-street, the location of which is marked by Roman entry. Mr. Helme died in 1773, and three years later the Rook-street Chapel was built.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

Another and a more important religious institution was the church that formerly occupied the site now known as an open spcae. When erected it was the third in point of age of the Manchester churches, St. Ann's having preceded it by nearly half a century. The land belonged to the Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate Church, and the Act of Parliament granting powers for its erection also empowered the warden and fellows to sell the land round the church to residents in the town, to grant leases for 99 years, and to sell pews in the church when built. The foundation stone was laid on July 16, 1753, and the building was consecrated on the Feast of St. Michael, 1756. The first rector was the Rev. Thomas Foxley, who died in 1761, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Maurice Griffith, who died in 1798 ; the Rev. James Bayley, who resigned in 1808, making way for the Rev. John Gatcliffe. Parson Gatcliffe, who was a fellow of the Collegiate Church, was in many ways a remarkable man. Born in Manchester in 1763, he graduated at Brazenose College, Oxford, in 1789, and was appointed clerk at the Collegiate Church in 1792, chaplain in 1794, and a Fellow in 1798. He was one of the most impressive readers and eloquent preachers of his day ; and Charles Mayne

Young, the eminent tragedian, after hearing him, introduced himself to him, and highly complimented him upon his powers. Whether these powers were responsible for it or not we cannot say, but the fact was that Gatcliffe often preached other men's sermons.

A REFORMER OF 1792.

Amongst the residents in the immediate neighbourhood of the church more than a century ago was Thomas Walker, whose mother is said to have been the first lady to carry an umbrella in the town, and who got mobbed for her temerity. When Pitt imposed the Fustian Tax in 1784 Thomas Walker and Thomas Richardson were sent to London to protest against it, and mainly through their effort it was repealed. In 1790 he was elected boroughreeve, and soon afterwards the Constitutional Society, of which he was a leading member, prevailed upon Matthew Falkner, a printer in the Market Place, to issue a reform paper called the "Manchester Herald." As an outcome of intense political excitement, a Church and King, or Tory, mob assembled in the Market Place on a May morning in 1792, and proceeded to debate matters by demolishing the offices of the newspaper. After this they made their way to South Parade, and there continued their performance by smashing the windows of Mr. Walker's house. After a while they went away, but returned a second and a third time, and on the following day again assembled. Mr. Walker, whilst addressing them, was hit on the head with a stone, when, seeing that the authorities were encouraging rather than attempting

to disperse the rioters, the occupants of the house fired a volley over the heads of the mob, who thereupon retired. On the following morning a further demonstration was made, and an attempt was made to set fire to the house. At this the authorities interfered, and the disturbance ceased. In April, 1794, Mr. Walker and a number of other reformers were charged at Lancaster on a charge of endeavouring to overthrow the Constitution, and assisting the French to invade the country. The case for the government was based upon perjury of so pronounced a character that their counsel threw up his brief, and their chief witness was committed to stand in the pillory, and afterwards to be imprisoned for two years. In spite of this the trial cost Mr. Walker three thousands pounds. Two of his sons afterwards became public characters, one, Thomas, becoming a metropolitan magistrate and was the author of "The Original ;" and another, C. J. S., became well known as a local magistrate. The latter, who, known as "Button-up Walker," said that as a child he remembered the attack upon his father's house, and how he and the other children and servants were taken down the back gardens and across the fields to a place of safety. In those days a field footpath ran from behind South Parade to Hulme Hall.



BRIDGE STREET MEMORIALS.

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DR. HALL.

When Casson and Berry issued their plan of Manchester in 1746, Bridge-street had not a being ; and many years afterwards the thoroughfare was represented by a narrow passage, giving access to the back portions of some of the houses that faced into Deansgate. One of the most interesting of these houses was the black and white one that stood at the corner of the passage, and was occupied for a number of years by Dr. Edward Hall. Dr. Hall was a Jacobite like his friend, Dr. John Byrom, but unlike another friend Dr. Peter Mainwaring, of Ashton-on-Mersey. When the Pretender visited Manchester in 1745, Dr. Hall openly declared his adhesion to the Stuart cause, Dr. Byrom on the other hand avoided publicity, and only visited the Prince after nightfall, and in response to a request for his attendance ; but Dr. Mainwaring urged the people of Ashton-on-Mersey and Stretford to arm themselves, and sent many of the villagers into the town armed with scythes, sickles, and other implements tied at the ends of mop sticks to oppose the rebels. In later years a son of Dr. Hall's removed the heads of Syddall and Deacon from the top of the Exchange, and buried them in the garden behind his sisters' house in King-street.

SOME SHOEMAKERS' PRICES.

The names of these three friends appeared in the ledger of a Manchester shoemaker that has survived for a century and a half. From its pages a few prices and entries may be culled. Dr. Diggle of Deansgate paid 5s. a pair for shoes, a pair of girl's shoes costing him half a crown. Squire Ashley of Ashley Hall is credited with a pair of shoes for his wife costing 4s. 6d. ; whilst Mr. Ashton Blackburn was charged for "five pairs of best stitched boots, and you found the uppers," at 5s. 6d. per pair. John Gore Booth, Esq., and Peter Brooks of Mere Hall were customers, and we find that Sir Peter Lester of Tabley was somewhat fastidious about the furniture for his feet. The Rev. Mr. Mosley, who resided at Turf Moss, near Chorlton-cum-Hardy, purchased a pair of splatterdashes for 7s. 6d. in March, 1757 ; and Lady Lester paid 9s. 6d. for a pair of pumps.

THE NEW BRIDGE.

Leaving Dr. Hall and his friends we are reminded that in his day the only means whereby vehicular traffic could pass between the two towns was the old Salford Bridge. As the population increased this traffic also increased, and although the old bridge was widened in 1778 it soon became evident that greater facilities were required. Therefore early in 1783 a movement was set on foot which resulted in a company being formed, and £40 shares being issued. By this means funds were raised, and on May 3, 1783, the foundation stone of the new bridge, afterwards known as the new Bailey bridge, was laid ; and two years later it was opened

for traffic. Tolls were levied, and with a portion of the proceeds the proprietors purchased many of the buildings standing at the upper end of Bridge-street. These were pulled down, new shops and houses built, and the street widened until in 1794 it had become one of the best in the town. In after years the tolls were sold by auction annually, and in 1802 the sum paid for them was £1,150. This, however, was the end of the tolls, for in January, 1803, they were entirely removed, and the bridge became free to all traffic. The subscribers had in the meantime been repaid for their capital together with interest at the rate of seven and a half per cent. per annum. Some years ago the present stone bridge replaced the old brick one.

NEW BAILEY PRISON.

About two years after the new bridge had been opened the justices of the county of Lancaster selected a site on the Salford side of the river for the erection of a new prison. At that time the Manchester prison, known as the House of Correction, stood on Hunt's Bank, on a site covered by a portion of the Palatine Hotel Buildings. The arrangements were of a primitive nature, as will be seen from an old print, which represents a number of prisoners behind the barred windows of the upstairs rooms. These are holding through the windows cords, at the end of which are cans intending for the reception of alms contributed by generous passers-by. In 1774, and again in 1775, John Howard, the prison philanthropist, visited the old building. In 1782 an act was obtained, but it was not until May 22,

1787, that the foundation stone of the new building was laid by Thomas Butterworth Bayley, of Hope Hall.

The erection and equipment occupied another three years, the place being opened for the reception of prisoners in April, 1790. One of the first prisoners confined there was John Macnamara, who was charged with having committed burglary at the Dog and Part-ridge Inn, Old Trafford. He was arrested at Liverpool, and the principal evidence against him was the identification of some sewing on the neckerchief he wore by the landlady of the inn. Having been tried, found guilty, and received sentence, the prisoner was taken in procession to Kersal Moor, on September 11, 1790. There he was hanged on a gibbet that was erected near to the grand stand of the racecourse, the site of which is marked to-day by the Kersal Moor Hotel. Eight years later George Russell was found guilty of croft breaking near Scotland Bridge. In those days linen was bleached by being exposed to sunlight in open fields connected with bleach works. To steal cloth so exposed was a penal offence, and George Russell was gibbeted at Newton Heath. A prisoner, James Massey, who hanged himself in his cell in 1807, was buried the same evening at Kersal Moor. A few days later his body was dug up and buried in a ditch near to where "Owd Grindrod" was gibbeted in Cross Lane in 1753; but another change was made, and finally the remains were buried near to the Salford weighing-machine. On October 3, 1818, Mrs. Fry visited the prison, and in 1837 Mrs. Elizabeth Pryor requested that a few Christian ladies might be permitted

to read the Scriptures to the prisoners, but the justices refused to grant the concession. On February 18, 1824, a tread wheel or treadmill was erected, and was used for grinding logwood. In the same year a prison van was first used to convey prisoners from the lock-ups to the prison, and ten years later the building was lighted by gas.

During the riots arising out of the scarcity of employment and the dearness of food, in 1842, the number of prisoners was so great that the prison chapel was converted into a ward. The average number of prisoners under normal conditions was about 700, included amongst which were a number of county court debtors. One of the prisoners who occupied a cell in 1832 should be mentioned. In that year Abel Heywood, afterwards Mayor of Manchester, was imprisoned for selling newspapers that bore no government stamp, and although this was his only offence, he was treated as though he had been guilty of some more serious breach of the law, such as attempted murder. We have a glance of the treatment referred to in the correspondence that his brother John, who founded the Deansgate business, had with the justices. He complained that letters sent by him to the prisoner were opened by prison officials, that his brother was not allowed to have books to read, and that the interviews with friends and relatives were rendered as disagreeable as possible. The last executions in the building took place on April 4, 1868, when Timothy Flaherty and Weartherill were hanged on a scaffold overlooking New Bailey-street. Six months earlier

one of the most notable execution scenes recorded in the annals of the prison took place. On a really typical, depressing morning in November, 1867, three Fenians, Allen, Larkin, and Gould, were executed for participation in the attack made upon the prison van in Hyde Road, when Kelly and Deasey were liberated, and Sergeant Brett was shot. As a boy I remember being taken later in the day to see the scaffold, and remember how the street was rendered impassable by the dense crowds that remained grouped in front of the prison during the whole of that memorable Saturday.

THE LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

Down Stanley-street, and immediately behind the prison, was for many years the Lying-in-Hospital. Instituted originally in May, 1790, its first home was in a building adjacent to the Old Bridge, on the side now occupied by Messrs. Woolley's warehouse. In 1796 the building in Stanley-street was purchased and immediately occupied. It stood on the bank of the river, and the situation is described as follows by Aston : " Perhaps a better situation could not possibly have been found for the site of such a hospital. The neighbourhood of the New Bailey Prison will prevent its being built up one side by overshadowing houses ; at the principal end it has an open area which probably will never be altered ; and the back part of the building is bounded by the River Irwell, which must be highly salubrious." In later years the hospital was moved to North Parade, afterwards to Quay-street, and more recently to Gloucester-street, its name having, in the meantime, been changed to that of St. Mary's Hospital.

BRIDGE STREET MEMORIALS.

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PART. II.—THE MANCHESTER OPHELIA.

The winter of 1813-14 was one of those often described as the "old-fashioned sort." A frost set in on December 16, and continued until early in February. So severe was it that after a couple of days the river Irwell was frozen over, and for seven weeks its surface was covered with ice. During the whole of this period the good folks of the town were interested and excited by the disappearance of Lavinia Robinson, the daughter of William Robinson, wireworker. On the evening of December 16, she, in company with a gentleman named Holroyd, a surgeon practising at 66, Bridge-street, and to whom she was engaged to be married, visited her sister's house in Bridge-street. The couple went out for a walk, and as Lavinia was expected to stay over night at her sister's house, when the family retired to rest they left the front door loose. In the morning it was discovered that she had not been in bed, and on the parlour table was found a note in her handwriting, from which it was feared that she was no longer alive. Her family and friends were in great distress, and as time passed, as Christmas came and went, their suffering became more acute. Holroyd stated that during their walk angry words passed between them as a result of a charge of infidelity preferred against her by him, and that in the end they parted at her sister's door in Bridge-street. On January 18, 1814, an advertisement appeared

in the "Manchester Mercury" offering a reward of 30 guineas for information that should lead to her recovery, either dead or alive. A week later the boroughreeve and constables added seventy guineas to the reward offered. No response was received until the seventh of February, when Mr. Goodier, of Eccles, saw the body on a sandbank in the river about a mile from Barton. The frost had given way two days before, and when the ice that covered the river broke up, the body rose to the surface. A medical examination preceded the inquest, at which an open verdict was returned. Public sympathy with the family was evinced in a variety of ways. The interment took place in St. John's Churchyard, where the stone can still be seen. It is the nineteenth from the Camp-street wall and the sixteenth from the Lower Byrom-street railings. And what about Holroyd? It would appear that he bore the mark of Cain upon him, for he immediately left the town, and in the "Shrewsbury Chronicle" for Friday, March 18, 1814, there appeared an announcement that he had committed suicide by poisoning after endeavouring to drown himself in the canal at Stafford.

THE BRIDGE-STREET MARKET.

A century ago there stood at the corner of Bridge-street and Deansgate a butcher's market known as the "New Shambles." The stalls were removed thither in 1803 from the Shambles that were opened in Pool-Fold in 1781; and occupied the site now occupied by Ogden's Buildings and the adjacent property. Where the

Household Stores stands was the pork market. In those days the markets were the property of the Lord of the Manor, and no person was allowed to open a shop for the sale of flesh meat in the town unless he occupied a stall in one of the various markets. One of these butcher's markets stood for seventy years in Brown-street on a portion of the ground covered by the Post office, and another was in London Road, close to the corner of Store-street, and where the entrance to the goods yard now is. The manorial rights, which included the right to hold fairs and markets in the town, were purchased from John Lacy, silk mercer of London, by Sir Nicholas Mosley in 1596 for £3,500. Sir Nicholas, after being Sheriff and Lord Mayor of London, removed to the neighbourhood of Manchester, and resided at Hough (Oose) End Hall, Chorlton-cum Hardy. The rights remained in the possession of the family, who enjoyed an increasing revenue from them, until, in 1845, they were sold to the Corporation for £200,000 ; forming a striking illustration of unearned increments.

BEFORE THE QUEEN'S THEATRE.

Seventy years ago Hayward's Hotel, kept by Joseph Ladyman, was numbered 35 in Bridge-street. Situated at the rear of the building was a fine room, which was connected with the hotel by a narrow covered bridge. It was frequently let for balls and concerts, and there were held the earliest meetings of the Gentlemen's Glee Club. A fire in the building caused the removal of the club to the Clarence. The hotel afterwards became known as the London Music Hall, where every

kind of music from grand operatic selections down to "Dr. Mark and his little men" was tried and failed. Ultimately the dingy looking music-hall was converted into the most capacious theatre in the city, and on November 5, 1870, the new Queen's Theatre was opened with T. F. Palmer's drama, "Insured at Lloyd's." "Barney" Egan's first pantomime here, "The Forty Thieves," was a pronounced success. Much might be written of those early years of the popular house, but limits of space forbid. Reference should be made, however, to the performances of the Mapleson Opera Company, notably their production of "Semiramide," with Tictjens, Trebelli-Bettini, and Agnesi in the cast; of Madame Ristori in "Elizabeth," "Marie Stuart," and "Marie Antoinette"; of Henry Irving, who appeared with Isabel Bateman and Henry Forrester in "Charles I."; of Barry Sullivan; of Sims Reeves in "Guy Mannering," "Beggar's Opera," "Lucia de Lammermoor" and "The Waterman"; of Charles Dillon, Miss Wallis, Mr. and Mrs. Billington, J. C. Cowper, and Ada Cavendish. In our own day Mr. Flanagan has once again raised the status of the Queen's by means of his magnificent series of Shakesperean revivals for which all lovers of the higher forms of dramatic art are his debtors.

SOME WELL-KNOWN NAMES.

A little past Hayward's Hotel was Mendel's Hotel. Emmanuel Mendel was in business as a rope, twine, and pitch-paper manufacturer, nearly opposite the end of Brown-street in Market-street, where the Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened. Like many other people

he thought that one result of the railway would be a great increase in the prosperity of the Deansgate side of the town. He therefore opened a new hotel known as the Manchester and Liverpool Hotel near the corner of Dolefield. It was not a great success, and was abandoned, and for some time the building was used as a Children's Hospital. The son of the hotel proprietor in later years became remarkably prosperous, and few names in Manchester were better known than Sam Mendel, whose mansion at Manley has recently been acquired by the Education Committee. The story of his rise and fall may be told on some other occasion.

At No. 9, Bridge-street, an old-fashioned double fronted house, whose windows were filled with small panes of glass, which reminded one of by-gone days, one of Manchester's most famous surgeons, Joseph Jordan, resided for many years. Born in Manchester, he practised in his native city until he was about seventy-seven years of age. He was the founder of Medical schools in the provinces, and as early as 1814 he gave courses of lectures on anatomy, with demonstrations and dissections to classes of medical students and pupils. He was the first provincial lecturer whose certificates were accepted and recognised by the examining bodies in London, the Apothecaries accepting them in 1817, and the College of Surgeons in 1821. In 1826 he built a medical school at his own expense, and in addition to a lecture hall, provided it with one of the most commodious and best fitted dissecting rooms in England, and transferred to it his valuable museum containing nearly 4,000 anatomical specimens. The collection

was afterwards placed in the Manchester Royal School of Medicine. For twenty years he continued to lecture, and when retiring from the platform he was entertained to a public dinner, which was attended by almost every medical man of repute in England, and was presented with a valuable service of plate. As a surgeon he made several inventions of first importance in the treatment of fractures ; and as senior surgeon to the infirmary rendered valuable services to the community. He died on March 31, 1873, aged 87.

Almost opposite to Dr. Jordan's house Thomas Whaite carried on business as a portrait painter. He designed and painted one of the banners carried by the Reformers on the occasion of Peterloo. This was probably the first of such work done by a member of the family whose productions are so well known to-day. For many years the name was associated with Bridge-street, and childhood's memories cluster round the recollections of the German Fair and monster Christmas tree, which were alike a source of wonder and delight. To-day, wherever painting in water colours is known, the name of Clarence Whaite is known, and deservedly popular. He has brought honour to a well known Manchester name.



THE STORY OF LIVERPOOL ROAD.

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HUMPHREYS' GARDENS.

A century ago the Knott Mill end of Deansgate was, comparatively speaking, in the country, although the town was advancing by rapid strides. Where Liverpool Road is there was a narrow thoroughfare called Priestnor-street, leading into the fields. Only a few houses had been built on the left-hand side, and on the right-hand side hedgerows extended from the corner of Deansgate to a point below Byrom-street. At the corner of Deansgate and Priestnor-street, where the market and the library buildings now are, a gardener named Humphreys grew an abundance of flowers and vegetables. Where squalor reigned supreme thirty years ago, our grandfathers were wont to resort on fine Sunday mornings for the double purpose of admiring the growing plants and purchasing salads and bunches of flowers. The gardens appear to have been extensive, and at the lower end there grew a number of fine trees. From the opposite end of Priestnor-street there extended a pleasant rural lane, shaded with fine trees and known as Lady's Walk. From the end of the walk in Bridgewater-street open fields extended up to and beyond the Duke's wharf. A portion of the gardens were built upon in 1808, but in 1813 Robert Humphreys was still gardening in the remainder, and living close by at 177, Deansgate, next door to an old public house called the "Bull Ring," but afterwards renamed the "Dog and Partridge."

Before this time however, another great change had been recorded. In 1806 an Act of Parliament was passed authorising the erection of another bridge over the Irwell at a spot known as Hulme field, a portion of the estate connected with Hulme Hall; and at the same time, the making of the roads connected with it which should provide a new means of communication between Manchester and Eccles where it joins the Liverpool Road. In this way Priestnor-street was widened and extended, it being at the same time renamed Liverpool Road.

THE HALL OF SCIENCE.

Five years after the Mechanics' Institution commenced its successful career at the lower end of Cooper-street, some dissent arose with reference to details of management; and as a result a number of members seceded, and in 1829 commenced a rival organisation in Brazen-nose-street, removing later to Pocl-street, Lloyd-street. Its first president was Mr. Detrosier, and its first treasurer Mr. Thomas Potter. At a public dinner Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., suggested the erection of a large hall, and on August 5, 1839, Robert Owen, the social reformer, laid the foundation stone of a new building, to be called the Hall of Science, on a portion of what had been Humphreys' Garden. Many leading speakers delivered lectures within its walls during the next few years, but the movement was never successful, and ultimately the building was closed. However it was to serve a great educational purpose in another way, for when Manchester decided to adopt the Free Libraries' Act of 1850,

Sir John Potter purchased it for £1,200 and in 1852 the first municipal free library was opened. The movement in its earliest stage owed much to the efforts of John Watts, whose name will for ever be associated in the minds of Manchester people with the cause of education. The gatherings that met in the Deansgate building on September 2, 1852, were notable also for the great men of letters who assembled. Charles Dickens and W. M. Thackeray were there, as were also Lord Lytton, Lord Houghton, Charles Knight, Frank Stone, W. H. Wills, and the Earl of Shaftesbury. Amongst the speakers was Thackeray, who broke down in delivering an address in the afternoon. The building, which contained the Reference Library on the upper floor and the Lending Department on the ground floor, remained the home of the library until 1877, when it was pulled down, and an interesting landmark thus disappeared.

FOOD RIOTS IN 1812.

The year 1812 was a black one in the history of our city. Work was scarce, wages were low, food was dear, the demand of the people that Government should turn their attention to the well-being of the workers was systematically ignored, and tyranny prevailed in many districts. To the student of history it is therefore not a matter of surprise that a feeling of unrest and discontent existed in Manchester and Lancashire generally ; and that at times the pent-up feelings of the populace broke forth and showed themselves in the shape of food riots. One of these risings concerned Deansgate. On Saturday, the 18th of April, the high price demanded for

potatoes at Shudehill would have resulted in serious trouble, some of the would-be purchasers, poor women, forcibly taking the food they required, but the trouble was averted by a substantial reduction in prices. On the Monday morning rioting however commenced, a cart loaded with meal being stopped in Ancoats Lane, and the meal distributed amongst the starving crowds who paraded the streets. For several days shops were looted in different parts of the town, amongst them being those of John Holland, who lived at the corner of Stuart-street and Deansgate, and that of Dolly Phillips, whose shop was at the corner of Priestnor-street. In a few days the starving population were once again bludgeoned into silence, but those who had acted as leaders in the movement were taken into custody, were tried, found guilty, and were duly executed at Lancaster on Saturday, June 16. In this manner eight persons lost their lives.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH.

Political discontent and distress were not stamped out by these means, and a few years later Parliament made the remarkable discovery that what Manchester people required in order to produce contentment, happiness, and prosperity was more churches. Peel therefore introduced and carried through both houses an Act of Parliament by which a large sum of money was granted for the erection of additional churches. The sum of £56,000 was granted, which sum was equally divided between St. Matthew's Church, Campfield ; St. Phillip's Church, Salford ; St. George's, Hulme ;

and St. Andrew's, Travis-street, Ancoats. The most interesting feature of St. Matthew's Church, which was built in 1822, is the spire, which ranks as one of the most graceful in structure to be seen in Lancashire. The architect of the building was Sir Charles Barry, who designed the Houses of Parliament, and other specimens of whose work include the Athenæum building and the Unitarian Chapel in Upper Brook-street. The first incumbent of St. Matthew's was the Rev. Edward Butterworth Shaw, whose curate was the Rev. E. D. Jackson, who some years later was appointed to the living of St. Thomas's Church, Heaton Chapel.

A NOTABLE RESIDENT.

About the same time there resided in the neighbourhood a worthy local writer and genealogist. Mr. Jesse Lee, a native of Rochdale, where he was born on January 4, 1791, came to Manchester in early life. When residing at Crown-street he was employed as a collector of tonnage in connection with the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal. In 1840 he issued a new edition of the "History of the House of Stanley," in the preparation of which he displayed praiseworthy care and attention to detail. Encouraged by the success he achieved, he next prepared an elaborate edition of the works of Tim Bobbin (John Collier), which comprised a large amount of original matter, and a glossary, included in which were over six hundred Lancashire words never before collected. The failure of his intended publisher prevented the printing of the work, and after his death, in 1844, this along with other manuscripts, were carefully preserved, and are now

in the possession of the Reference Library. Lee had the rare faculty of copying with accuracy in pen and ink any old drawings or sketches he might see, and for his edition of *Tim Bobbin* he had prepared a large number of illustrations.

By the year 1830 a complete change had taken place in the appearance and surroundings of Liverpool Road. The whole of the front land in Deansgate had been built up, and houses extended for a considerable distance down the Liverpool Road. The bottom portion was, however, bounded on either side by fields. Water-street from Regent Bridge to Great John-street was fringed on the right-hand side by fields, whilst at the corner of Water-street and Egerton-street was a well-known bowling green. From there open fields extended to Hulme Hall. Such was the appearance of the country, one might call it, when in 1830 the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was opened.



THE STORY OF LIVERPOOL ROAD.

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PART II.—THE FIRST PASSENGER RAILWAY.

At a time when electric cars and motor vehicles of all descriptions are to be seen in our streets, we can hardly realise the storm of opposition that was raised when it was proposed to construct a railway connecting Manchester with Liverpool. Agriculturists objected that it would be an invasion of their peaceful surroundings, that the smoke would spoil the fleeces of the sheep grazing in adjacent fields, and that it would be dangerous for cattle to stray on to the railway line. It would be "awkward for the coo'" Stephenson acknowledged. Members of Parliament declared that it would prove to be a dangerous and delusive speculation, and was not known to the constitution. Medical men joined in the opposition to the proposal, depicting the horrors and dangers to human life that would attend it; whilst the existing canal companies contended that sufficient facilities for travelling and the conveyance of goods already existed. Landed proprietors joined in the cry, contending that the scheme was altogether visionary and impracticable. So strong was the opposition that after a discussion in committee that extended over thirty-seven days the first clauses were negatived and the Bill was withdrawn. A second Bill was introduced and passed in 1826. In the first scheme it had been intended that the line should cross the Irwell at Barton, and that the terminus should be in Quay-street; but

in the second scheme it was proposed to pass through Eccles, and have the station at the bottom of Liverpool Road.

A DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING.

The construction of the line was commenced in June, 1826, when the drainage of Chat Moss was entered upon. Here the greatest difficulties were encountered, and thousands of loads of material were used before a foundation could be obtained. At one place, named Blackpool Hole, over 70,000 cubic yards of spoil were tipped in and disappeared, and still there was no sign of a foundation. Ultimately a number of young larch trees were obtained from the adjoining Botany Bay woods. These were laid together, herring bone fashion, and on the framework thus formed loads of soil and rock were deposited. By this means the difficulty was overcome. The four miles of line from Eccles cost £37,000 to make. The line was opened on September 15, 1830, by the Duke of Wellington, and as the ceremony has been so often described, we may turn our attention rather to some of the early conditions of railway travelling. We may, however, note that the day previous to the opening the Duke and a large party, numbering 750, dined at the Assembly Rooms in Mosley-street. The proceedings commenced at six p.m., and extended over five hours. No fewer than twenty-four toasts were drunk, and seeing that our newspaper report tells us that bumpers were frequently called for, one wonders in what condition many of the guests would be at the close. In many respects the system adopted in stage coach travelling was followed. Passengers were booked by having their

names entered on a way bill. These were printed on yellow paper and stitched in books. They were in duplicate, the counterfoil being given to the passenger. The way bills were carried by the guard, who booked any passengers who were picked up on the journey. He also collected the counterfoils when passengers completed their journeys.

THE GUARD'S SIGNAL.

He signalled the starting of the train by blowing a horn from a seat fixed at the back of the last carriage in a manner resembling the driver's seat on a hansom cab. He wore a tall hat and a long drab-coloured coat. There were two classes of carriage, and separate trains were composed of each class. The first-class carriages were yellow in colour, and consisted of three compartments, the centre one being shaped like the body of a coach and the end ones resembling the old time post chaise. The fare was seven shillings in a compartment holding four passengers, and five shillings in one holding six persons. The second-class carriages resembled oblong boxes painted blue, some having covers and others being open. The fare charged in the former was five shillings, and in the latter, which were without seats, 3s. 6d. Four first-class and three second-class trains ran each way daily. For the convenience of passengers, omnibuses ran between the Company's offices at the corner of Market-street and New Cannon-street to the station in Liverpool Road, bearing the word *Auxilium*; the fare being sixpence. At first there were no stations en route except at Newton, where

a stop was made for the engine to take in water, but after a few months sixteen stopping places were announced. Prior to that being done, the train would stop to pick up any passenger who might be waiting along side the line, the waving of an handkerchief or an umbrella being the signal. For the convenience of passengers a waitress met the trains at Patricroft with a tray and glasses, a jug of ale, and Eccles cakes ; whilst near Chat Moss a stop was often made to enable passengers to alight and visit a country public-house that stood about a hundred yards from the line.

Our closing note on Liverpool Road will deal with the popular

KNOTT MILL FAIR.

In March, 1876, the Markets Committee of the Manchester City Council issued a report relative to the various fairs held in the city, and as a result of the recommendation that accompanied it, they abolished Knott Mill Fair. To our grandfathers the fair was an event of considerable importance, ranking in that respect along with " Karsey Moor Races.," Tradition tells us that the fair originated with the opening of the Bridgewater Canal in 1761, when a number of stalls were erected upon the open land that then lay between the entrance to the Duke's Wharf and Jackson's Lane. Yearly the anniversary of this great event in the history of the town was celebrated in the same way, many people making it into a holiday. In 1806 the fair was removed to some fields in Priestnor-street, and for seventy years it continued to be held on almost the same spot. And to the Manchester folks of those

intervening years what a source of pleasure the fair was. Within its precincts year by year gathered the best known of travelling shows. Many well known names crowd into the memory as we think of the days that are gone. The drama was at one time well to the fore, and such names as Hayes, Wardhough, Templeton, Snape, Wilde, Parish, Romaine, and Holloway will be found in the old time advertisements.

TRAGEDY MORE POPULAR THAN COMEDY.

Tragedy was more popular than comedy in those shows, and one has a recollection of seeing "Hamlet" played in little more than half an hour. A more recent and more intimate acquaintance with the great tragedy has not convinced one of the correctness of that earlier rendering. But it served its purpose. We paid our twopences and a crowded house applauded and laughed at the efforts of the players. The costumes consisted of any odd assortment of dilapidated garments belonging to various periods of the world's history. The ghost was very much in evidence, and resembled rather a spiritualised body rather than a disembodied spirit. He was probably the only member of the cast who uttered anything like the number of words allotted to him. Next to the drama, the circus was the most powerful attraction. We saw Fossett's, which was certainly a fine show. Since 1806 there had been a regular succession of circus proprietors visiting the fair. It began with James Kite in 1806, when he paid a guinea for rent, and ended with Fossett, who paid £100 rent and £60 for the building, the parading stage, and

fixing of seats. In the interval there came Adams, Cooke, Ryan, and others. Then there was Wombwell's Menagerie. How we marvelled at the animals exhibited, and the feats performed by some of them. Performing lions always seemed to be peculiarly attractive. The name Wombwell was first associated with the fair in 1818. Holden's marionettes were surrounded with the glamour of mystery to the youthful mind. Boxing exhibitions, fat women, dwarfs, and waxwork shows were among the other attractions, and superfluous coppers could easily be disposed of at the stalls that ran down the Tomnan-street side of the ground, forming a sort of arcade, where toys and gimcracks of all descriptions could be purchased ; or at the stalls which ran along old Deansgate as far as Quay-street, at which were sold oranges, apples, nuts, and brandy-snaps.

A THING OF THE PAST.

The fair is now a thing of the past. For nearly thirty years a market has struggled to exist on the site, and the only reminiscence of the scenes to which we have referred is the church, the spire of which seemed at all times to raise a silent protest against the disorder, din, and the drunkenness which unfortunately accompanied the fair.



EARLIEST MANCHESTER.

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BEFORE THE ROMANS.

As we pass along Deansgate, amidst the deafening rush of electric cars and other traffic, surrounded on all sides by the bustle and energy, the usual accompaniment of prosperity, it is difficult to realise that there was a time when fields were unknown there, not on account of the prevalence of bricks and mortar, but because of the total absence of civilization ; when men were only a little removed from the animals that roamed at will through the uncleared forest, and when England was still enveloped in the darkness of barbarism. At such a time a colony of human beings lived in the neighbourhood of the present Deansgate, and from time to time traces of their occupation have been discovered. Thus we saw exhibited in the old Manchester Exhibition a year ago stone hammers and flint arrow heads belonging to a time before man had learned the value of, and how to utilise the metals such as iron and copper. Belonging to the same period was an ancient well found at Castle Field in 1820. The sides of the well were supported by rudely hewn logs of wood driven into the clay. When exposed the wood was soft, but in the course of a short time became harder. It was quite black and strongly resembled coal in appearance. It was the opinion of those who saw the well that it had been covered over by some tremendous flood rolling down the country side to the river, and

leaving a deposit of wreckage in its train. The Manchester men who probably formed the well lived in huts, built of wattles and mud, and covered in some cases with the skins of wild animals, many of which, notably the wild boar, roamed through the ancient forest that fringed one bank of the River Irwell. Staining their own skins with the expressed juices of various plants, the natives used the skins of animals as clothing. Living entirely by the chase, knowing nothing about Christianity or civilisation, our rude fathers some two thousand years ago had formed a settlement at the confluence of the Medlock with the Irwell.

THE ROMANS.

This state of things received a rude shock during the first century of the Christian era. The all-conquering Romans, having crossed over from France, soon overran our country. To a people who always used to the full the natural advantages offered by the locality, the site of the native settlement would appeal as being specially adapted for a Roman Camp, a second encampment being made on the site of the Chetham Hospital. There they settled and built their camp and castle, surrounding the whole with a wall of which a fragment still survives. The settlement that ultimately produced our present city was thereby introduced. Mancunium and Mamcestre were the names then adopted, and still retained, although somewhat altered. For three hundred years the Romans held sway, and many have been the interesting relics of their occupation that modern excavations have unearthed. The camp was in the shape of a

parallelogram, measuring 490 feet in length and 490 in width. From it there ran roads, one leading through Stretford to Chester and another terminating at York ; whilst a third ran to Ribchester, and a fourth leading through Stockport. Many interesting relics of the Roman period of our city's history exist, some which serve to remind us how they had developed certain branches of art and manufactures. Perhaps the most beautiful are the bronze statuettes shown at the exhibition. All are fine specimens, and would do credit to the artists of our own time. The most interesting of them is the statue of Jupiter Stator, found during the progress of excavations made prior to the erection of the Hall of Science afterwards used as the Campfield Free Library, in 1839. There it was found, having been buried for nearly two thousand years ; and an examination of it fails to detect any trace of age or decay. Almost equally interesting were the statuettes, also of bronze, of " Hercules " and " Genius of Mauritania ;" both found in the same neighbourhood. Another valued relic is a stone altar found in 1612 under the root of an oak tree growing on the river bank near to Knott Mill. The inscription upon it declares that it was erected to Fortune, the preserver, by Lucius Sene- cianus, a centurion of the Sixth Legion, surnamed the Victorious. After a career shrouded in much mystery this historical stone was acquired by the Oxford University in 1875, where it still remains. Another defaced and broken altar is at Worsley, and other finds have included coins, weapons, lamps, a portion of a Roman standard, tiles, glass ware, and a variety of specimens of

pottery ware. Sufficient survives to prove that the camp of Mancestre was of great importance during the period of the Roman occupation of England, which dated from 79 A.D. to about the middle of the fifth century. It was an interesting coincidence that the same year that marked the laying of the foundations of Roman Manchester also marked the first famous eruption of Vesuvius and the destruction of Herculaneum. England and France was lost to Rome during the reign of Theodosius II. (402 to 450), and Manchester was left to be the scene of conflict between opposing forces.

SAXON MANCHESTER.

It would appear that when the Romans left their camp at Mancestre they left their buildings and defences standing ; for Leland, writing more than a thousand years later, says that he saw the dykes and foundations of the old castle ; and Horsley, writing in 1750, said " the ramparts are still very conspicuous." Such being the case it is extremely likely that when the Saxons conquered Lancashire about 488 they used the Deansgate camp as a fortress. Of this period of Manchester's history we have no relics and few authentic records. In the place of the latter we have legend, and instead of historical data we have a typical early English story. We are told that the Saxon chief who took up his residence at Costlefield was a giant named Tarquin, who like his fellow chiefs, was extremely cruel in the treatment of the defeated Britons. One of Tarquin's distinguishing features was an enormous appetite, which could only be appeased by a daily breakfast

consisting of an infant child. Seeing that the victims were the children of the vanquished natives, the giant was regarded by the parents with fear and hatred. Being fearless in battle, Tarquin had in conflict taken a number of knights prisoners, whom he kept in bondage in his castle. In addition to this, his gigantic stature and prodigious strength sufficed to deter anyone from attempting a reprisal on his stronghold. He defied all comers, and hung outside his castle gate an iron bason, the striking upon which was regarded as a challenge, and any person so doing was compelled to meet the tyrant in single-handed conflict. It so chanced, however, that Sir Launcelot du Lake, one of the knights of King Arthur's round table, hearing of Sir Tarquin and his cruelties, came north in order to challenge him. Journeying from Winchester he arrived in due course at Hoozend, where he was hospitably entertained, and the following day he reached the giant's castle. Having given the challenge he was faced by Tarquin, whom he overcame and slew, beheading the giant with his own sword, a magical weapon of which he obtained possession through the intervention of Viviana, the fairy of the waters. When the castle dungeon was opened, sixty-four knights who had been confined therein, were liberated. Such is the legend. The slender historical data of the period refer to the conversion of Edwin, King of Northumbria, to Christianity in 627 by Paulinus; and it is thought that about the same time a Saxon church was founded here. Within the last few months evidence has been adduced by Mr. J. J. Phelps to show that an interesting antiquarian

relic at the Cathedral, known as the Angel Stone, dates from this early period. The case presented is a strong one, and it is tolerably certain that we possess a link connecting the earliest Christian Church built in the town with the present building. In 689 Manchester was selected as the place of residence of Ethelburga, the consort of Ina, King of Wessex, whilst that monarch was driving the Welsh from Cheshire. To what extent Manchester suffered at the hands of the Danes is shrouded in mystery. Some imagine that it was so entirely defaced that the district around took the name of Salfordshire, the neighbouring town having suffered less severely. Sufficient has been said to show that even in the very early days of our nation's history Manchester was a place of some importance, and we have seen how in succession the area bounded by Quay-street, Deansgate, and the rivers Irwell and Medlock were occupied by ancient Britons, Romans, Saxons, and Danes. How it progressed under the Normans and their successors will be told in the next chapter.



ALDPORT LODGE AND PARK.

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With the removal of property in order to make the goods stations of the Great Northern Railway Company, Manchester people lost one of the very oldest places of street names they possessed. For centuries the name had been familiar to the burgesses, and the name itself was reminiscent of the time when what we now know as Deansgate was a quiet country lane giving access to the residence of the steward of the Court Leet. It is tolerably certain that this part of Manchester has been populated since the foundation of the fort and castle by the Romans. After the troublous times that followed the Norman Conquest a large house was built in the midst of the park land that formerly extended from Knott Mill to somewhere near to where Quay-street now is, and from the river to some little distance across Deansgate. The name Aldport is derived from the Anglo-Saxon, and means the old town or fortress, thus distinguishing it from the more recent Baron's Hall, built soon after the Norman Conquest on the site of the present Chetham's Hospital. The area of the park was nearly a hundred acres, and in 1473 it was divided into two sections bearing the names of Over Aldport and Nether Aldport. Aldport Lane was the ancient name of that part of Deansgate, and in 1557 we read of an Aldport Stead. A fair idea of the state of the park in 1322 can be gathered from a reference to a survey of Mamecestre taken in that year. In it we read that the

wood of Aldport might be inclosed and made into pasturage land at the will of the lord, and that it comprised a mile in circuit. We are told that the oaks growing in the park were estimated to be worth £300, a large sum six hundred years ago, and giving some idea of the luxuriance of such forms of vegetation in those days, in a district where scarcely a blade of grass can be found to-day. In addition to this we read of aeries of hawks, herons, and eagles, and also of the collection of bees' honey. When we consider how rare any of the birds mentioned are to-day in almost any part of England, we are driven to the conclusion that to the easy going, sport loving people of those days, residence at Aldport was altogether a pleasant and desirable experience. We are therefore not surprised when we find that Edward, the third Earl of Derby, resided there for a long period of years, during which he acted as steward of the Court Leet.

AN EARLY DEANS_GATE RESIDENT.

When the second Earl of Derby died he left his son Edward, his heir, a minor in the guardianship of Cardinal Wolsey, and a number of other friends. Coming of age in 1527 the young Earl was appointed by Henry VIII. to attend Wolsey on an Embassy to the French King. In 1532 he was with the king on the occasion of the interview with Francis I. at Boulogne, and when Queen Anne Boleyn was crowned he was created a Knight of the Bath. His promptitude resulted in the suppression of the northern rising known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. When Edward VI. was crowned he was elected a Knight

of the Garter ; and soon afterwards Queen Mary appointed him Lord High Steward of England. On that occasion he left Latham, where he was at the time residing, with a retinue including " eighty esquires, all clad in velvet, and two hundred and eighteen servants in liveries." Queen Elizabeth was the fourth monarch to mark appreciation of his merit, and the value of his services to the State, by creating him Chamberlain of Chester with a seat in the Privy Council.

At this period he seems to have become closely connected with Manchester, and from 1556 to 1568 he was Steward of the Court Leet, presiding at most of the meetings. He had received the Aldport estate from Edward VI., when that monarch dissolved the College of Manchester. The Aldport estate had belonged to the Greslet family, and from them passed to the De la Warres. In 1421 Thomas De la Warre endowed the Collegiate Church of Manchester with certain land, included in which was the estate of Aldport. At the dissolution in 1547 the Earl of Derby purchased from the King some of the lands referred to, and some time afterwards took up his residence at Aldport. The lodge or mansion stood somewhere near to where the Free Library building now stands. His name first appears in the Court Leet records under date 1556, and was regular in his attendance at the meetings of the Court until 1568, when failing health prevented him, and from then to 1572 he was represented by John Gregory, Deputy Steward. He died on October 24, 1572, and three months earlier he was writing to the Court a letter which is still preserved in the records.

The estate was sold in 1599 to Sir Randle Brereton, who immediately resold it to the Mosley family. In the early years of Queen Elizabeth's reign an attempt was made to popularize archery, butts being fitted up at Aldport Park, and at Old Garratt. The practice of archery, or, as it was then termed, artillery, was dying out, and the Court made various attempts to revive it, but apparently without success. According to an Act of Parliament passed in the reign of Henry VIII., the Court were instructed to see that every burgess should be possessed of a bow and arrows ; " Every man child from seven years old to seventeen ought to have a bow and two arrows ; and every man from seventeen to three score ought to have a bow and four arrows." The penalty for default was 6s. 8d.

THE SIEGE OF MANCHESTER.

We must hurry on to another period in our nation's history during which Aldport played an important part. When the struggle between Charles I. and his Parliament commenced, Manchester took the side of the latter. The people of the town, led by Heyrick, the warden of the Collegiate Church, made their protestation on February 28, 1642, and the King received their petition at York on June 6. The reply was of so evasive a character that the Puritans of the town adopted the Solemn League and Covenant, and the fortification of the town was commenced. Acting under the King's orders, the Sheriff of Lancashire seized the magazine at Preston, and Lord Strange, the son of the Earl of Derby, seized that at Liverpool, after which he hurried to Manchester,



only to find that the Parliamentarians had anticipated his visit and secured the gunpowder that was stored in a room at the College. A skirmish took place in the street between a number of members of the opposing parties, but Lord Strange withdrew into Cheshire.

Later in the year when the King raised his standard at Nottingham, the defence of the town was seriously undertaken by Colonel Roseworm, a German Engineer, who had been engaged in the wars in the low countries. He undertook the work for the modest sum of £30 for six month's services, and although the Royalists offered him £150 for a similar period of time, he remained true to the Parliamentary cause. In the meantime Lord Strange had prepared his plans, and on Sunday, September 25, he commenced a siege of the town. The attack was made from two points, the forces consisting of 4,000 foot and 200 horse approaching along both banks of the river Irwell. The troops that approached from the Salford side were led by Sir Thomas Tyldesley, whilst those under Lord Strange took up their position at Aldport, then regarded at the extreme limit of the town. Lord Strange took up his residence at the Lodge, and from there he directed operations against the town. The defence was so skilfully conducted that during a whole week no progress was made. The artillery produced a small amount of damage to some of the houses standing in Deansgate, several barns and cottages being burnt down. On the other hand, the shots from the town guns set fire to the Aldport Lodge, which was burned down, and never afterwards rebuilt. After a week's futile attempt the siege was raised, and

never afterwards was the town threatened by a Royalist force. The loss of life was small as compared with the results of modern warfare, the besiegers losing 200 men, whilst of the townspeople only four were killed.

During the siege the Earl of Derby died, and his son, Lord Strange, succeeded to the title and estates. The Lancashire records of those exciting times contain nothing more interesting than the account we have of the fine defence of Lathom House by the Countess of Derby, Charlotte de la Tremouille ; and few incidents were more regrettable than the execution of the brave earl in the Bolton Market Place on October 15, 1651. With this brief account of a stirring episode in the history of the town we leave old Aldport, for after the destruction of the Lodge by fire, the land appears to have been used for agricultural purposes, until the growth of the town gradually obliterated all semblance of rural beauty, and closely crowded, badly built, and insanitary houses took the place of green fields. One event which had much to do with the alteration of this part of the town was the opening of the Bridgewater Canal, which is described in the next chapter.



THE MAKING OF THE BRIDGEWATER CANAL.

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THE GREAT DUKE.

Francis, the third Duke of Bridgewater, has been often styled "the Great Duke;" and surely when we examine his claims to the title and compare them with those of most members of the aristocracy, we feel that the designation is more than justified. Of the many men who have rendered valuable service to our city few, if any, can be said to rank higher than he does. The third bearer of the title of Duke of Bridgewater, Francis, was born in 1736, and nine years later lost his father. When twelve years of age his elder brother died, leaving him heir to the title and family estates. At the age of twenty-two, owing, it is said, to a disappointment in love, he left the clubland that even then clustered around St. James's-street, London, and settled down at the old hall at Worsley. Great events were progressing in English history, and the nation was steadily strengthening the claim to be regarded as the foremost people of the world. Abroad, the victories of Clive, Wolfe, and Hawke were extending the Empire and laying the foundations of our colonial possessions. At home, no less valuable victories were being achieved; and James Watt, Joseph Wedgwood, James Hargreave, Richard Arkwright, and others were earning undying fame by their achievements. Manchester was steadily growing in extent and importance when in 1759 the

young Duke obtained an Act of Parliament which among other things gave him the power to construct a canal from Worsley to Manchester ; and he immediately set to work to carry out his plans.

THE STATE OF THE ROADS.

The principal reason for the making of the canal was to enable the Duke to carry the coal obtained from his pits to Manchester, where with increasing population there existed an increasing demand for it. That the great roads of the country were in a deplorable condition we know from contemporary writers. Of these perhaps the most important was Arthur Young, who published his "Tour through the North of England" in 1770. Speaking of the road from Wigan to Preston, he said that he knew not "in the whole range of language words sufficiently expressive to describe it." "Let me caution all travellers who may accidentally purpose to travel this terrible country to avoid it as they would the devil ; for a thousand to one but they break their necks or their limbs by overthrows or breakings down. They will meet with ruts which I actually measured four feet deep and floating with mud, only from a wet summer. What, therefore, must it be after a winter ? The only mending it in places receives is the tumbling-in some loose stones, which serve no other purpose but jolting a carriage in the most intolerable manner. These are not merely opinions, but facts, for I actually passed three carts broken down, in these eighteen miles of execrable memory." This state of things was general in this part of the country, with the result that the coal

that sold at the Worsley pit mouth at tenpence for 280lbs. was doubled in price before it reached the houses and workshops of Manchester, a few miles away. Therefore it was that the making of the canal was decided upon. At Worsley, the Duke made the acquaintance of one who shares with him the honour of carrying out his scheme.

James Brindley, the son of a poor man, was born near Buxton in 1716, and soon showed a great amount of ingenuity in the use of tools. As a boy he made with a penknife and odd pieces of wood a model of the machinery of a neighbouring mill ; and at thirteen was apprenticed to a millwright. Afterwards he commenced business on his own account, and became rapidly famous for the improvements he introduced in machine making. Lord Gower, who had a notion of making a canal connecting the Mersey and the Trent, employed Brindley to survey the country for him ; and when the scheme was abandoned the Duke realised that Brindley was the man to help him. The result was that the engineer, who could only just read and write, took up his residence at Worsley and made what he termed his " ochilor servey." The result was a very considerable alteration in the Duke's ideas. One of these was the carrying of the canal over the river at Barton by means of an aqueduct of stone instead of taking it below by means of locks. The outside world laughed at the idea of carrying water in the air thus, but when on July 17, 1761, the first boat load of coals was carried safely over the aqueduct, and in due course unloaded at the Duke's Wharf, Knott Mill, scepticism gave way

to admiration ; and for many years the achievement was regarded as one of the wonders of England, and was visited by people from all parts of the country. But this achievement did not exhaust Brindley's resources. The tunnelling of the hill at Worsley to give access to the pits, the making of watertight embankments, the invention of a new mortar used in his masonry, and the introduction of mechanical contrivances at Manchester were a few of the other products of his marvellous ingenuity. In 1772 the canal was extended to Runcorn, and the Duke had, single-handed financially, and with the help of Brindley from an engineering point of view, constructed a canal twenty-eight miles long, without a lock in the whole of that distance. He afterwards bought up all the land in the neighbourhood of Worsley which contained any coal seams, and in all spent £170,000 in forming underground canals connecting his pits with the canal.

TRAVELLING ON THE CANAL.

Needless to say the opening of the Canal was a great event in Manchester annals, and was celebrated by a general holiday. The great concourse of people in the neighbourhood of the Quay at Knott Mill attracted a number of stall holders, and the fair thus inaugurated afterwards became popularly known as Knott Mill Fair. The new waterway was not confined to the carrying of coals, but became popular as a means of travelling. A glance at an advertisement issued in 1796 is full of interest. We are told that "passage boats will sail as follows": "From the Duke's Quay every morning at eight o'clock to Altrincham, Lymm, London Bridge

near Warrington, Preston Brook, and Runcorn, and every Saturday afternoon at four o'clock." "From the same place a boat sails every morning at ten o'clock and half past five every evening from September 29 to March 25, and at half past four during the other months, to Barton Aqueduct and Worsley." The fares charged were at two rates, the higher for the front part of the boats and the lower for the back parts. To Stretford the fares were 6d. and 1s., to Dunham 1s. and 1s. 6d., to Lymm 1s. 3d. and 2s., to Runcorn 3s. 3d. and 3s. 6d., and to Worsley 6d. and 1s. Another announcement made in 1811 stated that "two elegant passage boats for passengers and their luggage go alternately from Manchester to Runcorn in Cheshire, one of which leaves Castle Quay, Manchester, every morning at eight o'clock; passes Altrincham at 10 o'clock; London Bridge near Warrington, at 1 o'clock (where coaches meet it to convey passengers to Warrington and Liverpool); passes Preston Brook near Frodsham, at 3 o'clock (where a stage coach meets it to convey passengers to Chester, and arrives at Runcorn at five o'clock in the evening." A second boat sailed from Runcorn to Manchester at 8 o'clock each morning; and the fares charged were as previously quoted. Such were the leisurely movements of some of the travelling public a century ago; a remarkable contrast to the rush and bustle of to-day. There was a charm about it which we seem to have lost. A writer who had often used the passage boats says that the boats were fitted up with large deck cabins, and were drawn by two or three good horses, on one of which a postillion in livery was

mounted. On one occasion he sailed thus to Runcorn, and says, " I never enjoyed anything of the kind better "; and then describes a delightful passage he once had from Bolton on a fine summer's evening. The advent of the railway, however, killed this mode of travelling, although when Queen Victoria visited Worsley she was taken along the waterway.



PETER STREET.

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PART I.—ITS HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONS.

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PETER-STREET IN 1745.

Peter-street, now so generally devoted to buildings used for recreative purposes, cannot be classed as one of our oldest thoroughfares. There is nothing about it which takes us back more than a little over a century. But during the century it has seen many changes, and its record is well worth telling. Long before the opening of the last century, a short, narrow street containing a few cottages ran out of Deansgate, opposite to Quay-street, bearing the name of Yates-street. Behind the few cottages were gardens, and beyond these open fields extended. The little lane was only about sixty yards long, and was closed at the end by a field hedge. Quay-street was a country lane leading down to the quay on the river side, and Deansgate itself ran through the open fields when Quay and Yates streets were passed.

Maps of the Manchester of those days are scarce, and records as to the gradual opening out of streets are almost equally scarce. In 1790 a new road was opened extending from the new St. Peter's Church to a point represented to-day by Booth-street, and thus a new continuous thoroughfare to Rusholme was obtained; Yates-street having in the meantime been extended and re-named after the new church. Prior to that being done the alternative roads to Rusholme and the districts beyond were either by Bank Top and Ardwick-street

(now London Road and Downing-street) and Rusholme Lane or by Garratt Lane (Portland-street) and Old Garratt. When Oxford Road was formed it ran through open fields, which for some years remained unbuilt upon. The river Tib, now culverted over, ran open, and in the Medlock fish could be caught. Peter-street itself was almost entirely unbuilt upon, a few houses standing near the corner of Deansgate.

MR. COOPER'S COTTAGE.

Opposite to the new church stood Mr. Cooper's cottage, the grounds connected with which covered the whole of the site of the Midland Hotel. The gardens were tastefully arranged, and in the centre was a fish pond ; the whole being surrounded by a high wall. Mr. Cooper, who inherited the property from a Mr. Dawson, was a well known character in the Manchester of a century ago, and is said to have walked from Manchester to Doncaster and back again each year for forty years for the pleasure of seeing the race for the St. Leger. His only daughter married a Mr. Brown, who removed to Lea Castle, Kidderminster, about 1830, when certain of the land was sold, the first portion disposed of being the site of the Gentlemen's Concert Hall. Later still the cottage was sold, and on the site was erected the warehouse so long occupied by Schunck, Sonchay, and Co. When Mr. Cooper occupied the cottage a windmill stood on land behind it, and from the corner of the garden wall a pleasant field path led the way to Castle-field.

A word about the windmill which was described in 1792 as standing on the mount, near to St. Peter's

Church. The position of Mount-street would enable us to locate the position of this once well known land mark. The windmill included four pairs of stones for grinding dye woods, two grindle stones, and two rasping mills. Connected with the house was a stable and carthouse, a summerhouse, and a garden well planted with wall fruit trees. The whole comprised two thousand five hundred yards, and was enclosed by a wall. The first reference we have to the windmill is in an advertisement published in 1766. In 1793 the mill was destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt, and the last mention of it is contained in an advertisement announcing its sale by auction in 1811. The first building of any importance erected in our thoroughfare was

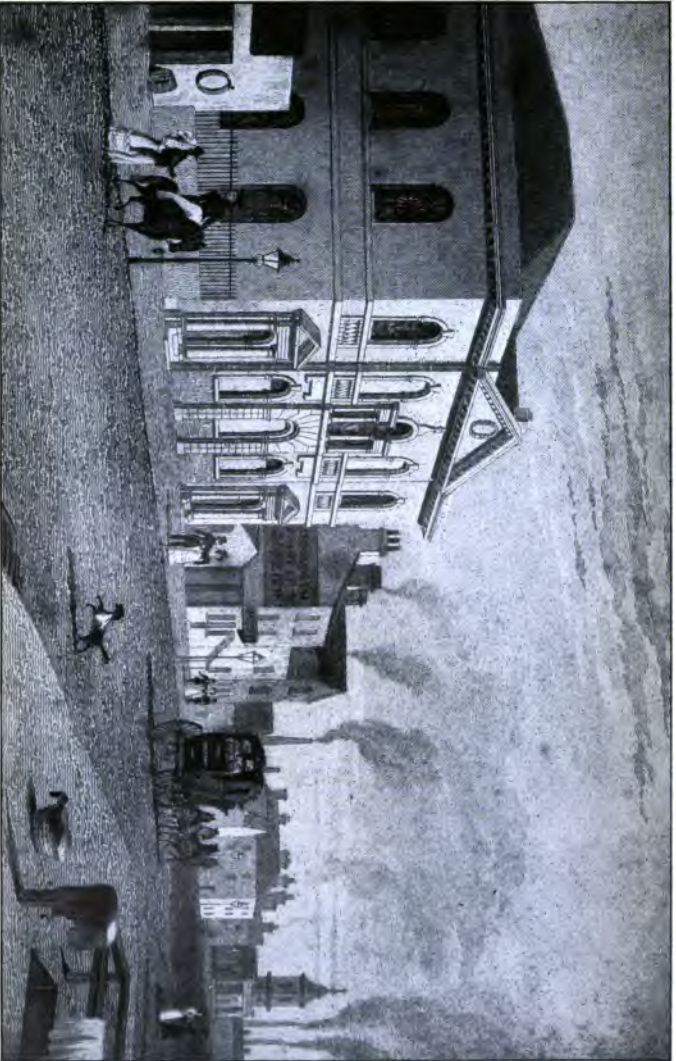
ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

The church owes its origin to the broadminded action of its first rector, the Rev. Samuel Hall, M.A., who will be familiar to readers of Thomas de Quincey, as having been one of the guardians and tutor of the great essayist. Mr. Hall was appointed curate of St. Ann's Church in 1777, occupying the position until 1784, when he resigned. He also was appointed chaplain of the local volunteers, and in that capacity conducted a service at St. Ann's Church, at which they were present. In deference to the opinions of the Dissenting members of the force he omitted the Athanasian Creed; and as a result he was refused election to the position of a Fellow of the Collegiate Church when a vacancy occurred. As a result a number of his supporters purchased land at the bottom of Dawson-street (now Mosley-street),

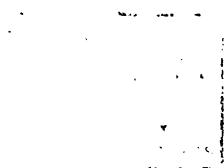
and erected thereon the church to which we are referring. The foundation stone was laid on December 11, 1788 ; but the building was not consecrated until September 6, 1794 ; the delay also having reference to Mr. Hall's conduct. The architect, James Wyatt, intended erecting a dome to the building, but was overruled, and he designed a steeple to take its place, which was erected in 1822. A curiously incorrect view of the building was published in 1826, in which the steeple is replaced by a spire surmounted by a wind vane. Over the altar was placed a fine oil painting representing the Descent from the Cross, the work of Annibal Carracci, and presented by Mr. Dawson. The Rev. Samuel Hall died on September 22, 1813, and was succeeded by the High Master of the Grammar School, the Rev. Jeremiah Smith, D.D. Dr. Smith, whose deep voice was said to resemble the rumbling of thunder, was introduced by his pupil Harrison Ainsworth into "Mervyn Clitheroe" as the "Archi-didasculus, Dr. Lonsdale." He resigned in 1825, and was succeeded by the Rev. Nicholas German, M.A., assistant master, and afterwards High Master of the Grammar School. Mr. German, who was called "the handsome and faultlessly attired," was one of the old-fashioned type of High Churchmen. He was incumbent for nearly sixty years, dying on November 22, 1882, in his 84th year.

THE SWEDENBORGIANS.

The next public building to be erected in Peter-street was the Swedenborgian or New Church. The local pioneer of the new faith was the Rev. John Clowes,



PETER STREET IN 1830.



rector of St. John's Church, Deansgate. His curate, the Rev. William Cowherd, was the first minister of the new church, which was opened on August 11th, 1793. Mr. Cowherd was in many ways a remarkable man. He very soon abandoned his adopted faith, and founded a new one known as the Bible Christians; and leaving Peter-street in 1800 he built Christ Church, King-street, Salford. He abstained from the use of flesh meat and intoxicating liquors, and his followers were often called "pudding eaters," the Swedenborgian Chapel in Bolton-street being called by way of distinction the "Beefsteak Chapel." He was an active worker amongst the poorer classes, for whom he improvised a vegetarian soup that was in great demand in times of distress. He also practised bleeding and tooth-drawing, and was in many respects a useful member of society. In spite of these facts, the epitaph inscribed on his tombstone, written by himself, was "All feared, none loved, and few understood."

We cannot attempt to give a list of the various ministers who preached in the Peter-street church after the resignation of Mr. Cowherd; but one fact should be noted. In common with several other denominations of Nonconformists, the Swedenborgian pastors did not devote the whole of their time and energies to the performance of duties pertaining to their positions, but were actively engaged in business. Thus Mr. Richard Jones, fustian manufacturer, Charles-street, St. John's, was for thirty years also known as the Rev. Richard Jones; and he was succeeded by the Rev. J. H. Smithson, who was also a schoolmaster. Many of

Manchester's most prominent public men during at least half of the last century were members of the congregation ; and many of their sons were educated at the school so long associated with the church, and known at various periods as Moss's School and Peter-street School. In 1888 the building was sold to the Whitworth Trustees to be used as a manual training school. It still stands, and although its surroundings have changed so completely, it does not appear to be out of place.

PETER-STREET AND OXFORD-STREET IN 1826.

The first quarter of the nineteenth century saw great changes in our thoroughfare, for although the site occupied by the Free Trade Hall was still open, and known as St. Peter's field, the back land was being rapidly covered with buildings. Fields and gardens were disappearing, and cottage property was springing up all round. Warehouses were confined to the district round Market-street and Cannon-street. The Rochdale Canal had been opened, the river Tib had been covered over, and much of Oxford-street had been built up. A bowling green stood at the corner of Grosvenor Square, and most of the houses thereabouts had gardens attached to them. Trees were still to be seen overshadowing the roadway, and unbroken stretches of farm land extending to the gardens of many of the houses erected near All Saint's Church. Very few houses were to be found beyond Clifford-street, which marked the extent of the town in those days in that direction.

PETER STREET.

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PART II.—THE REFORMERS AND PETERLOO.

No account of Peter-street would be complete without some reference to the meetings held to advocate reform, and which may be said to have culminated in the scenes enacted on August 16, 1819. Commercial distress and poverty and suffering on the part of the workers were general in Lancashire in the second decade of the century. The demand for Parliamentary intervention and reform was growing stronger year by year, until on November 4, 1816, five thousand people assembled on St. Peter's field to "take into consideration the present distressed state of the country." Other meetings followed, and at one held on March 10, 1817, it was decided to march en masse to London in order to personally present to the Prince Regent a petition for the redress of grievances. Each man carried a blanket in which to wrap himself at night when sleeping at the roadside, hence the term "blanketeers," as applied to those who took part in it. The action was ill-advised, and ended in a disastrous failure. The soldiers were sent in pursuit of the reformers, and 250 of them were lodged in the New Bailey Prison. These were taken prisoners at Lancashire Hill, Stockport. Less than 200 out of several thousands arrived at Macclesfield, 50 went as far as Leek, 20 got as far as Ashbourne, and it is said that a few reached Derby. One of the results of the movement was the arrest by order of the Manchester magistrates of eleven leading

reformers, including the redoubtable Sam Bamford, to whose works, "Early Days" and "Life of a Radical," I would refer my readers for further particulars of the events of those stirring times. The event known as Peterloo has been often described, and I shall therefore not attempt a detailed account of it. We all know how on the bright Monday morning the Reformers from many districts round Manchester, accompanied by their wives and children, walked to the great meeting-place, how as succeeding parties arrived they took up their positions on the field, how the meeting was being peaceably conducted, how without any warning the defenceless crowd was charged by the Yeomanry (previously it was said, primed for their work by drink), how men, women, and children were remorselessly slaughtered, and how the magistrates afterwards contended that they had done a great public service by ordering the attack to be made. The leading Reformers were afterwards tried and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, Henry Hunt being imprisoned for two years, and Bamford, Healey, and Johnson to one year each. P. B. Shelley wrote his poem, "Masque of Anarchy," in commemoration of the event. The cause of reform was not crushed out of existence by Peterloo, but grew and extended until in 1832 its fruits were reaped by the passing of the Reform Bill.

Considered chronologically, the next noteworthy event incident was the building of the

GENTLEMEN'S CONCERT HALL.

Apart from the churches and educational movements few institutions in Manchester have so interesting and

so long a career as has that known as the Gentlemen's concerts. Commencing at a tavern in the Market Place in 1770 it prospered so satisfactorily that in 1775 the foundation stone of a concert room was laid in Fountain-street by Edward Greaves. For nearly sixty years concerts were given in the building, respecting which many interesting notes have survived. On some future occasion I may deal with its history, but at present we shall confine our attention to a building of more recent date, erected in 1831. Built on the site of a portion of Mr. Cooper's garden, it was opened on August 30, 1831, by a concert, at which the leading performers were Madame Malibran, Signor Curioni, Signor de Begnis, Monsieur and Madame Stockhausen, and Mr. Mori. That marvellous singer, Malibran, presented a wonderful rendering of "Ombra Adorata," and at another of the early concerts her future husband, De Beriot, appeared. Italian opera was exceedingly popular seventy years ago, and few English vocalists or musicians figure as principals in the early concerts, and few English numbers appear in the programmes. The building with which we are all familiar was designed by Richard Lane, an architect who produced many of the buildings erected in the middle portion of the century. These included the Salford Town Hall, the Blind Asylum, the Union Club, the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Higher Broughton, the Richmond Independent Chapel, and the Friends' Meeting House, Mount-street. The subscription for membership of the concerts was fixed at five guineas, and the number of subscribers was limited to six hundred. At the concerts were heard all

the great musicians and vocalists of the day, the names of Travis, Tree, Stephens, Catalini, Corri, Paton, Braham and Sinclair being a few of the more popular ones. A decade later and the fashionable element in the town crowded to hear Tambourini, Perisiani, Grisi, and Lablache ; and thus for half a century more, succeeding generations of Manchester people delighted in the performances of succeeding generations of musicians and singers, until at last the building disappeared. The concerts still continue, having enjoyed an unbroken career extending a hundred and thirty years.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

Four years after the opening of the Concert Hall another new building was opened in Peter-street. This was in connection with the Manchester Society for the Promotion of Natural History, who had commenced operations in rooms in St. Ann's Place, in June, 1821. The society commenced the formation of a museum of natural objects. The nucleus of the collection were a number of birds and insects which had been collected by Mr. J. Leigh Philips, who in 1804 met Colonel Hanson on Kersal Moor with the object of fighting a duel. Philips was a silk manufacturer of Queen-street (now St. Ann's-street), and was also a well known naturalist. After his death his fine collection had come into the possession of T. H. Robinson, from whose executors the Natural History Society purchased it for the sum of £400. As the collection increased in size, fresh rooms were taken on the site of the Reform Club, King-street ; and in 1835 the society opened a building

which they erected at a cost of £3,750. The officials of the society included many well known men, including Dr. Holme, Dr. Henry, Messrs. John Moore, J. Ainsworth, T. Turner, and Thomas Fleming. Until 1839 the museum was confined to members and their friends, but in that year the rooms were thrown open to the public on the payment of one shilling each for admission. In 1850 the premises were extended at a cost of £1,473, and the collection of the Geological Society was added to the already extensive one. In course of time interest in the society and its work fell off, and the list of subscribers became seriously reduced. The collection was offered to the Corporation on terms that were not acceptable in 1864. Three years later it was decided to hand over the collection, which was valued at £20,000, to the Owens College authorities, and a large section of it forms a portion of the Manchester Museum of to-day. Some of the objects were sold by auction. The condition accompanying the gift was that the museum should be open free to the public. The society held its last meeting on January 29, 1868. In 1875 the building was sold to the Young Men's Christian Association for £30,000. Such is the history in outline of a movement that rendered much valuable service to science, long before the days of science classes, technical institutes, and compulsory elementary education. It would be out of the question to attempt even a summary of the thousands of objects shown in the cases, but mention should be made of the well known mummy that for many years could be seen there. It was

THE MANCHESTER MUMMY,

originally the body of Ann Beswick, of Birchin Bower, Hollinwood, who died at Cheetwood Old Hall in 1758. For reasons that are variously stated her body was embalmed by her medical man, Dr. Thomas White, and was kept by him at the Priory, Sale. After his death it passed into the possession of Dr. Ollier, and when the Peter-street museum was formed it was placed there, where it remained until 1868, when it was buried in the Harpurhey Cemetery. Thus, more than a century after her death the body of the eccentric lady was buried.

Another building erected in the thirties and still standing, although much changed in appearance was formerly known as a Methodist New Connexion chapel. After serving such a purpose for over thirty years it was sold, and was converted into the Alexandra Music Hall. To a later generation it has been known successively as the Folly and the Tivoli. A portion at least of the original chapel front is hidden away behind the present outside wall.

PART II.—THE FREE TRADE HALL.

The Anti-corn-law League had not been engaged in their work very long ere the want of a large room in Manchester for the purpose of holding public meetings was acutely felt. The Corn Exchange was the largest such room, but it could not accommodate the thousands who crowded to hear the great apostles of free trade. The Council of the League therefore made inquiries for suitable sites, and Mr. Cobden, who owned nearly

the whole of the unbuilt upon portion of St. Peter's Field, offered the land as a site. This was accepted, and in eleven days a temporary pavilion was erected. This was opened by a banquet, attended by nearly 4,000 persons, on January 13, 1840. The event caused great excitement in the town, and hundreds of people met at the railway station in Liverpool Road to welcome Daniel O'Connell. Nearly thirty members of Parliament were present at the meeting, in addition to representatives from over 70 towns, delegates coming from places as far distant as Gloucester, Kirkcaldy, Paisley, London, Edinburgh, Stranraer, and Cheltenham. It is worthy of note that John Bright, whose powers as an orator were unknown, occupied a seat in the body of the hall as a delegate from Rochdale. In this way was inaugurated a series of meetings, held in the interests of Reform on the site where the Reformers of 1819 were murderously attacked by the Yeomanry.

THE SECOND BUILDING.

Three years later a brick building was opened on the site of the pavilion. The principal entrances of the building were in South-street, the back joining up to the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, and the sides of the building being bounded by Peter-street and Windmill-street. The walls were 27 feet in height, and the roof was supported by a number of massive iron columns. Along one end and both sides there ran galleries provided with double rows of seats. The columns supporting the roof extended in two lines down the room, which was 135 feet long by 105 feet wide.

The inaugural meeting in the new building was held on January 30, 1843, when the hall, described as being second in size to Westminster Hall, was crowded in every part. The proceedings were commenced by George Wilson reading a list of subscriptions representing £40,000 contributed towards the £50,000 fund opened by the Council. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and over £2,000 more was subscribed during the meeting. On the two following days other meetings were held, and one of the few views of the old hall existing depicts the interior when the banquet held on Wednesday, February 1, was being held. Later in the same year the first of the Athenæum series of soirees was held in the hall, under the presidency of Charles Dickens. In 1844 the second soiree was held, Benjamin Disraeli, M.P., presiding, Lord John Manners also being present. All sorts of movements have appealed for support from the platforms of the two halls since those days, one of the most remarkable of which was a gathering that took place on March 17, 1848, at which Fergus O'Connor, M.P., was the principal speaker, the object of the meeting being to promote an alliance of the Chartists with the Irish Repealers. On January 31, 1849, a meeting was held which demands special notice. That day marked the close of the final stage in the repeal of the corn laws, and the occasion was celebrated by a great banquet. The room was splendidly decorated, a profusion of flowers being used. George Wilson occupied the chair, and he was supported by C. P. Villiers, Richard Cobden, John Bright, Milner Gibson, Colonel Thompson, and others, who had taken

leading parts in the attack upon Protection that had resulted in its downfall. Many speeches were delivered, but five minutes before midnight the Chairman asked for silence, and the vast audience sat in solemn stillness until the midnight chimes had sounded. Then he called out "The Corn Law is dead," which was followed with three cheers by the audience, who then sang "There's a good time coming."

Not only have political meetings and concerts innumerable been in the old and the present buildings, but there have from time to time been produced on its platform dramatic performances. One of these, that took place on February 11, 1852, is worthy of special note. At that time the "Guild of Literature and Art" were raising funds to form a means of assisting unfortunate authors and artists; and with this object a number of members of the Guild produced "Not so bad as we seem," a comedy by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, followed by an original farce written by Charles Dickens and Mark Lemon, entitled "Mr. Nightingale's Diary." The cast included Charles Dickens, Douglas Jerrold, John Forster, Mark Lemon, Peter Cunningham, R. H. Horne, Charles Knight, Wilkie Collins, and John Tenniel. Rarely, if ever, have so many eminent literary characters been seen on the platform of either building at one and the same time. On July 19, 1853, it was decided to pull down the building and to erect another one on the site. The Anti-corn-law League was disbanded, and a company was formed to build the new hall. In January, 1855, the process of destruction was commenced, and on October 8, 1856, the

new building was inaugurated by a public gathering presided over by George Wilson. To attempt to enumerate the many movements that have been associated with the present building is altogether beyond the scope of the present article, although it might form an interesting record of public life in Manchester for nearly half a century. Political opinions of all shades, social movements of all descriptions, orations by eminent lecturers, bazaars innumerable, and concerts ranging from Banks' Monday evening concerts to Halle's, which have furnished opportunities for Manchester people hearing the finest musicians and vocalists of the day, would be noted. One performance only will I refer to in detail. Douglas Jerrold died in 1857, and on August 24 of that year Charles Dickens superintended a dramatic performance given in his memory. Wilkie Collin's drama entitled "The Frozen Deep," followed by Mr. Buckstone's farce "Uncle John," comprised the bill of fare, and the company included Mark Lemon, Charles Dickens, Augustus Egg, and Shirley Brook. Two sons of the eminent novelist also appeared, Charles Dickens, junior, being styled Mr. Young Charles. With this note we leave the hall.

MINOR MOVEMENTS.

The Manchester Crichton Club, founded in 1853, removed in 1856 to Scott's Coffee-house, 51, Peter-street. Its object was the study of literature, science, and art, and in 1856 it published the Crichton Annual, to which Joseph Parker, afterwards (Dr. Parker) wrote an introduction. The Comedy Theatre and the Grand

Circus were built by Edward Garcia, the former (costing £15,000) being opened on December 22, 1885.

THE PRINCE'S THEATRE.

The building was erected from the plans of Edward Salomons for a company whose capital amounted to £20,000. Rarely, if ever, has a theatrical venture been commenced in more auspicious fashion. Charles Calvert, already popular on account of his association with the Theatre Royal, was engaged as manager, and under his direction "The Tempest" was produced on Saturday, October 15, 1864. The cast was a remarkably strong one, including such well known names as Fred Maccabe, J. L. Cathcart, Philip Day, H. L. Haynes, Miss Julia St. George, Miss Florence Haydn, Miss Fanny Lauri, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Calvert. The feature of the performance was the singing of Ariel's song, "Where the bee sucks" by Miss St. George, who, on the opening night was compelled to sing the song three times. Nightly during the revival similar enthusiasm was displayed by the audiences that crowded the building. For ten years the theatre was famous for Mr. Calvert's Shakesperian productions, the plays revived being "Much Ado about Nothing" (1865), "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1865), "Anthony and Cleopatra" (1866), "Winter's Tale" (1869), "Richard III." (1870), "Timon of Athens" (1871), "Merchant of Venice" (1871), "Henry the Fifth" (1872), "Twelfth Night" (1873), and the second part of "Henry IV." (1874). Surely in the annals of the stage there must be few instances where the early years

of a new theatre has been signalised by the production of so many masterpieces in a manner that secured so general an amount of popular enthusiasm. Since those days many great players have appeared on the Prince's boards, but few have been so popular with the audiences as was Charles Calvert.



THE THEATRE ROYAL.

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SOME NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS IN ITS HISTORY.

THE OPENING.

On May 7, 1844, the old Theatre Royal in Fountain-street was burnt down. It was insured in three offices for £15,000, but as the insurance companies refused to rebuild the theatre but preferred making a cash payment, the proprietors decided to abandon the theatrical venture. They sold their patent to John Knowles, who purchased the Wellington Hotel and Brogden's Horse Bazaar in Peter-street. These buildings were pulled down and the present Theatre Royal erected on the site. The architect was Francis Chester, and the cost of the building was £23,000. It was a bold speculation for one man to make, and a writer said at the time "the great perseverance, known business ability, spirited enterprise, and large expenditure of the proprietor, are, as far as we know, unexampled in the annals of theatres."

The opening performance took place on September 29, 1845, in the presence of nearly 2,500 persons, who filled the building. The play bill for the evening is very interesting, and well repays perusal. After the performance of Weber's "Oberon" overture, a prize opening address was read by Mr. J. H. Wallack, the stage manager. The proprietor had offered a premium of £5 for the best address submitted. Sixty-four addresses were sent in, the judges awarding the prize

to Mark Barry. The Lancashire poet, John Critchley Prince, was a competitor, and was awarded a sovereign for the lines he submitted. After the reading of the address, the drop scene rose, disclosing the whole of the stock company grouped upon the stage. Novello's arrangement of "God save the Queen" was sung, the solos being taken by Miss Isaacs, Mrs. Hoskins, Mr. Hime, and Mr. M'Mahon. The play produced was Douglas Jerrold's comedy, "Time Works Wonders," the cast including many Manchester favourites of sixty years ago. Miss Emmeline Montague's rendering of Florentine appears to have been particularly fine, and amongst the players who gave general satisfaction were Mrs. Horseman, Mrs. Weston, Mr. Davidge, and Mr. J. Saunders. A presentation to Mr. Chester and Mr. Irwin, who had assisted him, was followed by a representation of "The Court Ball in 1740," said to have been the most elaborate ballet spectacle hitherto produced out of London. The "Manchester Guardian" report of the performance closed with the following sentences:—"Several of the dancers were loudly applauded, and the curtain fell at midnight on the most brilliant scene, as a whole, ever exhibited within the walls of a Manchester theatre.

SIX MONTHS' REPRESENTATIONS.

Those were the palmy days of the stock company, when, with the exception of occasional visits from travelling "stars," stages were occupied week after week by the same actors and actresses, some of whom secured a large amount of versatility. In these days of travelling

companies, when no players are attached to most theatres, and where fresh faces are seen on the boards weekly, it is interesting to note how a manager catered for the enjoyment and support of his patrons 60 years ago. From September 29, 1845, to April 4, 1846, there were 157 performances. Two plays, and sometimes three, were produced at each performance, and the Christmas pantomime, "Guy Fawkes," was produced nightly for a month after the production of some other play. We are not surprised therefore to find that on 157 nights no fewer than 354 productions were recorded. These comprised 59 representations of tragedies, 78 of comedies, 33 of dramas, 44 of interludes and farces, 49 of musical pieces, 66 of ballets, and 25 of pantomime. Shakespere was represented by the following performances. "Hamlet" was produced eleven times, "Othello" five, "King Lear" five, "Merchant of Venice" seven, "Richard III." six, "Taming of the Shrew," produced as "Katherine and Petruchio," five; "Twelfth Night" six, "Two Gentlemen of Verona" two, and "Measure for Measure" one. Other tragedies produced included "The Gamester," "The Stranger," "Venice Preserved," "Werner and Douglas"; and included amongst the comedies and plays were "Time Works Wonders" (eleven), "Heir-at-Law," "Old Heads and Young Hearts," "The Rivals," "Money," "Lady of Lyons," "Charles XII.," "Richelieu," and "Road to Ruin." This will give some idea of the season's bill of fare produced by Mr. Knowles' stock company during the winter of 1845-46.

A FEW NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

On Monday, July 26, 1847, a performance was given for the benefit of Leigh Hunt. The bill included Ben Jonson's comedy "Every Man in his Humour," preceded by an address written by Mr. Serjeant Talfourd, and spoken by Mr. Charles Dickens; and followed by an interlude called "A Good Night's Rest," and a farce "Turning the Tables." The cast included some of the best known characters in the literary and art circles, amongst whom were John Forster, G. H. Lewes, Charles Dickens, Douglas Jerrold, John Leech, George Cruikshank and Mark Lemon; and the receipts were £440. In June of the following year many of the gentlemen named again appeared on the Royal stage in a performance in aid of a fund for the endowment of a perpetual curatorship of Shakespere's house. The comedy, "The Merry Wives of Windsor," was followed by Mrs. Inchbald's farce, "Animal Magnetism." Later in the year Miss Glyn, afterwards known as Mrs. Dallas-Glyn, made her first appearance on any stage at the Royal as Lady Constance in "King John," with G. V. Brooke as the King. Prince Arthur was played by a little girl, Marie Wilton, known to the present generation as Lady Bancroft. The same season saw the first appearance of Barry Sullivan, who played "Stukeley" in "The Gamester." Mr. and Mrs. Kead were included in the cast; and when, on October 28, Sullivan gave his first rendering of "Hamlet," he more than justified the hopes raised by his earlier performances. As showing the composition of the company, it may be noted that when on March 10, 1849, they produced the

"Merchant of Venice," Shylock was played by G. H. Lewes, Gratiano by H. Beverley, Bassanio by Barry Sullivan, Launcelot Gobbo by W. Davidge, Portia by Miss Anderton, Nerissa by Mrs. Bickerstaff, and Jessica by Miss Eliza Travers.

In September of the same year Macready gave a series of seven farewell appearances, on successive nights playing Macbeth, Iago, Werner, King John, Richelieu, King Lear, and Hamlet. These were a few of the many notable incidents of Mr. Knowles' management of the theatre, and among the star actors that appeared during his regime may also be noted Rachel, Jenny Lind, Madame Vestris, Charles Mathews, Fanny Kemble, Ben Webster, Helen Faucit, Macready, and Vandenhoff, whilst among the members of the stock company were many first class players. In June, 1852, Mr. Knowles gave a series of six performances for the benefit of local charities, and on that occasion received the assistance of Helen Faucit, Miss Glyn, Miss Vandenhoff, and Messrs. Vandenhoff, Barry Sullivan, E. L. Davenport, Charles Dillon, Charles Hallé, and a host of other distinguished artistes. On September 29, 1860, a young player named H. Irving joined the stock company playing Adolphe in "The Spy." Charles Calvert was at the time stage manager. On March 27, 1875, Mr. Knowles bade his adieu to the theatre, having disposed of it to a limited company. During the preceding week a number of special attractions had been produced, the proceeds being devoted to charitable objects.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

On August 28, after being beautified, the house reopened with "As You Like It," performed by a newly organised stock company, followed shortly afterwards by "Twelfth Night" and "All's Well that Ends Well." To attempt to even summarise the appearances of leading actors during the last thirty years would be beyond the limitations of space, but an exception may be made in the case of the celebrated Calvert memorial performances that took place on October 1 and 2, 1879. The play produced was "As You Like It," Rosalind being played on the first night by Miss Wallis, and on the second night by Miss Helen Faucit. The Duke was played by B. Lee, Jacques by Alfred Darbyshire, Adam by Tom Taylor, First Forester by Edwin Waugh; and John Hollingshead, G. du Maurier, Lewis Wingfield, Herman Merivale and other well known gentlemen appeared in the cast. The occasion was historic, particularly on the Thursday when Helen Faucit, emerging from her privacy, made her last appearance on any stage. As the curtain rose the whole audience stood and accorded to the veteran a magnificent reception, the warmth of which seemed for a moment to almost paralyse her. The performance of the play was in some respects not entirely satisfactory, but the wonderful manner in which Helen Faucit pitched her voice so that every word could be distinctly heard in all parts of the house was a great triumph, and formed a fitting close to a great career.

MOSLEY STREET MEMORIALS.

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PART I.—THE MOSLEY FAMILY.

In one of my earlier articles I referred to the Mosley family who for so many years owned the manorial rights of the town. As we are now recording the history of the street bearing their name, we may briefly trace their descent, showing how intimately they were associated with the town. Much of the land around Mosley-street belonged to them, and to them we are indebted for the open space known as the infirmary flags. Descended from a Staffordshire family, we know that Jenkyn Moseley resided at Hough End, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, in 1465, and that through his wife one of the quarters of the Mosley coat of arms was added. His grandson Edward died in 1571 leaving four sons. Oswald, the eldest, died at Garratt Hall, and his property descended to the second son Samuel, who sold it and went to Ireland.

The two younger sons, Nicholas and Anthony, entered into the woollen trade, then the staple industry of Manchester, and were exceedingly prosperous, carrying their goods across the Caspian Sea, and throughout Turkey. Nicholas settled in London, whilst Anthony managed their affairs in Manchester. In 1599 Nicholas became Lord Mayor of London, and took such active steps in the defence of London against the second attempted invasion by the Spaniards that he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. In 1596 he

purchased for £3,500 the manorial rights of Manchester, and appears to have returned to Manchester soon afterwards. In 1604 he was appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire, and died in 1612, a monument in Didsbury Church representing him in his civic robes. The spelling of the name had been changed to Mosley, ere his eldest son succeeded to the estate.

ANCIENT COLLYHURST.

In those days Collyhurst was a forest, 50 acres in extent, to which the burgesses of the town were wont to send their swine for pasture upon fallen mast. Under the charge of the swineherd the porkers were conducted by way of Ashley Lane to the feeding ground. The payment made was 6d. per annum for each animal, the swineherd receiving 2d. and the lord of the manor 4d. Before his death Nicholas Mosley commenced enclosing and cultivating portions of the woodlands. The burgesses resisted this, and a lawsuit ensued, during the hearing of which the father died, leaving matters to be settled by his son Rowland. In the end the Mosleys were allowed to enclose all but six acres upon which were built cabins for the reception of persons infected by the plague, those who succumbed being also buried there.

After the death of Sir Nicholas the succession was broken, his youngest son eventually taking possession. He purchased the Rolleston estate about 1614, and, dying in 1638, was succeeded by his nephew Edward, the son of Anthony Moseley previously mentioned. During the civil wars Sir Edward espoused the cause of

the King, supplying, it is said, £20,000 to the royal cause. After the wars his estates were sequestrated, but he resumed possession on the payment of £4,874. He died in 1657, being succeeded by his son Edward, who dying young the estates came into the possession of the Mosleys, of Ancoats. The Ancoats mansion and estate had been purchased by Anthony Mosley from Sir John Byron, from whom the poet Lord Byron was descended. Anthony Mosley died leaving five sons, the eldest of whom, Oswald Mosley, of Ancoats, acted as steward of the Court Leet from 1613 to 1630, when he died at the age of 47. His eldest son, Nicholas, like his cousin Nicholas, was an adherent of the Stuart cause, and was compelled to pay heavy fines to the Parliament for his delinquency.

RESTORATION REJOICINGS AT ANCOATS HALL.

Nicholas was still squire of Ancoats, when, at the close of the Commonwealth period, Charles II. was welcomed to the throne. There were great rejoicings on April 23, 1661, when Captain Mosley mustered 220 men, some of them being survivors of a troop he had raised for the executed King. They carried their own arms, wore rich scarves, and were preceded by 40 young boys, about seven years of age, clothed in white stuff, had plumes of feathers in their hats, with small swords hanging in black belts and with short pikes shouldered. After Captain Mosley's company were a number of older boys, with muskets and pikes.

Arranged in this manner in front of the old black and white hall that stood on the site of the present hall,

and duly reviewed by their captain, amidst the cheers of the villagers, the party headed by drums and banners marched to Manchester, when they were met by Major Byrom with a similar retinue. After attending the Collegiate Church, where Warden Richard Heyrick preached, they joined in a grand procession which included the boroughreeve and constables, leading burgesses, and the warden and fellows of the Collegiate Church. Preceded by the "Town-musick playing upon loud instruments" they marched through the streets to the Cross, and so forwards to the conduit, from which ran three streams of claret. The cross together with the stocks and pillory stood in the Market Place opposite to the Shambles, and the conduit which was the principal water supply of the town stood close by but nearer to the Market Stead Lane end of the Market Place. There the health of the King was drunk with much cheering, after which the gentlemen and officers dined together. The soldiers visited the houses of some of the leading burgesses, bells were rung, and at night fireworks were discharged and bonfires lighted. When, on May 1, Captain Mosley heard of the tidings of London's celebration, he again led his men into a field, made them a learned speech, drank the King's health, and led them in procession to the Market Place where further rejoicing took place. Nicholas Mosley, who was a man of broad views and extended his friendship to several of the ministers ejected for nonconformity, died in 1672. His younger brother Edward held the Hulme estate, and on his death was succeeded by his daughter Ann, who married Sir John

Bland. When she died the estates together with the manorial rights passed to Sir Oswald Mosley, grandson of Nicholas Mosley.

THE YOUNG PRETENDER AT ANCOATS.

Sir Oswald held strong Jacobite views, and the story is told that in 1744 he entertained at Ancoats Hall Charles Edward Stuart, the young pretender. The evidence in support of the statement is far from satisfactory, being based solely upon the identification by a servant of the Prince when he was here in 1745 with a guest who had stayed at the hall. Sir Oswald was, however, resident at the time at Rolleston, where he died in 1751. Thirty years later the then Lord of the Manor, John Parker Mosley, took up his residence at Ancoats ; and the old hall was the scene of great rejoicing when on March 24, 1782, his eldest son, Oswald, attained his majority. At a great ball that was given 400 guests were present. The scene was a brilliant one, many notable persons being there. This was one of the last incidents in the history of the old building, for soon afterwards it was sold to George Murray, who pulled it down and erected the present hall on its site.

Sir John died in 1798, and was succeeded by his grandson, Oswald, who was born in 1785. In 1807 he entered Parliament as member for Portarlington, and in 1816 he was returned for Midhurst. After the passing of the Reform Bill he sat for North Staffordshire from 1832 to 1837, but never made a name as a Parliamentary man. Soon afterwards negotiations were opened between his representatives and the Manchester

Corporaton respecting the manorial rights owned by him, and on December 3, 1844, an interview was held at which certain preliminaries were arranged. In the end the representatives of the city agreed to pay £200,000, and on March 12, 1845, the agreement was finally concluded at Rolleston Castle. Although never actively associated with any movement in the borough from whence he drew so large a portion of his income, Sir Oswald recognised his responsibilities to the district where he lived, and did much to encourage studious habits amongst the young people of Rolleston. For 50 years he conducted a class in the Sunday School there, and was generous in his private and public benevolences. He died on May 25, 1871, and was succeeded by his second son Tonman. The Mosleys, as will be seen, were intimately associated with Manchester for many generations, and their name is perpetuated by the street name. We should at the same time remember that it is to the Mosleys that we are indebted for the infirmary esplanade, inasmuch as when that institution was built Sir Oswald gave the land conditional that it remained open for public use for ever.



MOSLEY STREET MEMORIALS.

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PART II.—A RURAL HAMLET.

To one intimately acquainted with the traffic of Mosley-street it is difficult to associate the idea of rural peacefulness with any part of it ; but in the days when the Court Leet ruled in the town such was the case. Where York-street now crosses there once stood a fold consisting of a few cottages surrounded by fields and approached from Market Stead Lane by a narrow lane. In the Court Leet records for 1586 there is a reference to this lane which, in all probability, is represented to-day by West Mosley-street. The Labreys, who gave the name to the hamlet, are supposed to have been Flemish Huguenots, who fled from religious persecution. The name appears on several occasions in the Collegiate Church registers, and around the last of such entries there lingers a pathetic interest, as we read that in 1598 Mr. and Mrs. Labrey fell victims to fever on successive days. What were the later incidents relative to Labrey's Fold we know not, nor do we know when its formation commenced. It does not appear in the map issued in 1751, but forty years later it was a fashionable residential street ; and before the close of the century several interesting buildings had been erected in it.

MOSLEY-STREET IN 1793.

We can form some idea of the appearance of the street in 1793 by making an examination of Laurent's plan, issued in that year. Although many houses

had been erected there were still unoccupied spaces. One of these was at the corner of York-street, another at the corner of the present Nicholas-street, whilst across a third, near to St. Peter's Church, was a footpath leading into Dickinson-street. St. Peter's Square was entirely unbuilt upon ; and from there to Nicholas-street the street was known as Dawson-street. Behind Dawson-street, in the direction of Deansgate, open fields extended as far as Longworth's Folly, the name given to several houses that stood near to where the Memorial Hall stands ; and in one of the fields near Princess-street was a pond. Dr. Dalton, speaking of the street as it then appeared, said that it was " the most elegant and retired street in the town." Its public buildings included the Unitarian and Independent Chapels, the Manchester Academy, and the Assembly Rooms.

THE MANCHESTER ACADEMY.

In 1757 an educational institution known as the Warrington Academy was founded in that town, but after a career extending over a quarter of a century it was dissolved. Soon afterwards a number of gentlemen decided to commence a school in Manchester based upon the same liberal plan. Land was purchased on the western side of Mosley-street, and between Bond (Princess) street and St. Peter's Square ; and on it was erected a pile of buildings that stood until 1866. They stood a little distance from the street, and were enclosed by palisades. The first principal was Dr. Barnes, minister of Cross-street Chapel, and in 1793 Dr. Dalton was appointed Professor of Mathematics

and Natural Philosophy, and Lewis Loyd, afterwards a member of the well known banking firm of Jones, Loyd, and Co., lectured on literature or Belle Lettres, as it was then styled. The course of training was comprehensive and free from religious tests. One of the pupils, a Frenchman, afterwards became famous as Marshal Wortier, Duc de Treviso. He died on July 28, 1835, being one of the victims of the infernal machine levelled at Louis Philippe and his sons in the Boulevard du Temple ; and another one, Samuel Hibbert, afterwards Dr. Hibbert Ware, is known as the writer of "The Foundations of Manchester." In 1803 the Academy was removed to York, and became the Manchester College. After several other changes it finally became settled at Oxford, where, as the Manchester New College, it is conducted on the liberal basis that marked its early days.

THE UNITARIAN CHAPEL.

The year 1788 was an important one in the annals of our thoroughfare, inasmuch as it marked the commencement of three religious institutions connected with it. We have noted the laying of the foundation stone of St. Peter's Church, we now refer to the erection of a Unitarian Chapel at the corner of Marble-street, on the site now occupied by Nicholl's tailoring establishment, and presently we shall chronicle the laying of the foundation of the Independent Chapel that stood at the lower corner of Charlotte-street. Before the date named Unitarianism was preached in the Cross-street Chapel only ; but the holders of those views were not satisfied

with some opinions expressed by the then ministers, the Rev. R. Harrison and Dr. Barnes. As a result they purchased land in Mosley-street, and in 1789 the new chapel was opened with the Rev. W. Hawkes as minister. Attached to the chapel was a Sunday School and a small graveyard. The building was plain and unassuming in appearance, but its congregation included many learned and wealthy citizens. At least three of them entered Parliament, G. W. Wood for the county, E. Potter for Carlisle, and R. H. Greg for Manchester. There was also Dr. Henry and Dr. Ashton, John Kennedy, of Ardwick Hall; Henry Houldsworth, father of Sir W. H. Houldsworth, who also lived on the Green; Henry M'Connell and Peter Ewart, Leopold Reiss and Leo Schuster. In 1834 the chapel and school were sold for £10,000 to John M'Connell and the congregation removed to a new chapel built in Upper Brook-street from the designs of Sir Charles Barry. The Manchester and Salford Bank occupied the Mosley-street site for many years.

MOSLEY-STREET INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

The third religious institution to which reference has been made was the Independent Chapel that formerly stood at the corner of Charlotte-street. Like the Unitarian Chapel, it originated in a secession from an older congregation, in this case from the Cannon-street Chapel. Built in 1788 and enlarged in 1819, it survived until 1848, when the Cavendish Chapel was built. In the course of sixty years five ministers conducted its services. Two of these were notable men, one, the

Rev. R. S. M'All, LL.D., being one of the most eloquent preachers ever associated with the city, and the other, Dr. Halley, ranking high for his great intellectual powers. In the years when carriage people lived in and around Mosley-street, the former attracted crowded congregations to the chapel. Included amongst them were J. H. Heron, father of Manchester's first Town Clerk ; J. S. Grafton, Richard Roberts, W. R. Callender, William Woodward, William Newall, the builder of Newall's Buildings ; John Fildes, afterwards M.P. for Grimsby ; James Lamb, the cabinet maker ; John Cassell, the founder of the famous publishing firm, who started life as a carpenter ; James Kershaw, afterwards M.P. ; Joseph Thompson, father of the present Alderman, and the Rev. Joseph Whitworth, father of Sir Joseph Whitworth. From the Mosley-street pulpit sermons were delivered by many visitors, some of whose names are still cherished by members of the body. They included John Angell James, of Birmingham ; Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool ; Dr. Harris, of Cheshunt ; Thomas Binney, of London ; and Dr. Liefchild, of London. Dr. M'All often preached such long sermons that the deacons adopted various methods to limit them. One of these is worth noting. A gilded ball, which was released at twelve o'clock by a deacon, who sat below the pulpit was set swinging. As the ball swung backwards and forwards the preacher stretched over the front of the pulpit, stopped it, and proceeded with his sermon.

AN EARLY HOTEL.

Still recurring to the year 1788, we find that on the twelfth of June William Shaw sold the stock, furniture, and fixtures of "the Hotel" that he had opened in Mosley-street. The reason which is assigned in the advertisement is curious reading to-day. After a few months' trial the venture was abandoned, the proprietor "finding from its distant situation that it is highly inconvenient" for such a purpose. Some of the items named are worth noting, giving us some idea of the stock laid in by an innkeeper in those days. There is mention of a puncheon of Holland's Geneva, a hogshead of Vin-de-Grieve, a butt of Sherry, 200 dozens of old bottled Port, forty dozens of old Hock, four dozens of Burgundy, forty dozens of Rhenish, five dozens of Champagne, four dozens Claret, thirty dozens of Perry, and twenty-nine barrels of Porter. Mr. Shaw also offered for sale the whole of the buildings erected by him, including coach-houses and stabling for twelve horses; and a plot of land. The experiment would appear to have been a most unfortunate one for Mr. Shaw, and it is to be regretted that we cannot locate the exact site of the hotel. Where the Royal Hotel stands was a private house with gardens attached, and across Mosley-street was the pond stretching the full length of the Infirmary. Within the grounds of the latter were many flourishing trees; and in the kitchen gardens behind the building were grown many of the vegetables used by the patients and staff of the institution.

MOSLEY STREET MEMORIALS.

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PART III.—THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

The population of the town a century ago was divided into two classes, the somebodies and the nobodies. The line of demarcation was most rigidly drawn, and the wives and daughters of the wealthy avoided contact with the majority of the population, except on such special occasions when they condescended to patronise them. The local home of the somebodies was the Assembly Rooms, which, with the billiard room, occupied a fine range of buildings opposite to the Portico. The rooms were opened on September 20, 1792, by a "most brilliant assembly." The membership was at first confined to the hundred subscribers who contributed £70 each towards the cost of erection. A brief description of this one time fashionable resort will be of interest. The entrance from Mosley-street was by a lofty and spacious vestibule leading to a wide staircase. The ball room occupied the front part of the first floor. It was 87ft. long and 34ft. broad. The walls and ceiling were painted in compartments, the lighting was by 15 glass chandeliers, the seats around the room were upholstered in orange coloured satin, and the orchestra occupied a place over the front entrance. The tea room was 54ft. by 31ft., and the walls of the card room were covered with a rich Chinese paper. The rules that regulated the assemblies were elaborate in their detail. Gentlemen were to change partners every two dances,

no couple were to leave a dance until it was concluded, no refreshments were allowed in the ball room, and negus only in the card-room. Instructions as to carriages and chairs were equally precise. Chairs were to set down and take up at the back door in Back Mosley-street, where there was a convenient room for the purpose. Gradually, as it became fashionable to live out of town, the attendances fell off, and ultimately the building was sold by auction. Connected with the Assembly Rooms was the Billiard Room. The entrance fee was five guineas and the annual subscription was two guineas. No inhabitant of the town except members were admitted, but strangers could be introduced. The charge for a game was threepence in the day and sixpence by candlelight. Betting was limited to half a crown; and no person could play at whist for more than one shilling the point, or bet more than half a guinea on the rubber. The room was opened in 1795, and the list of subscribers for 1796 includes the names of all the leading townsmen of the day. For half a century it was the resort of men of fortune and education, and in 1840 it numbered 85 subscribers, this being the limit. As members died or resigned, there was great competition for the vacancies so called. Soon after this there came a change, the number of members was gradually reduced, expenses were cut down, and ultimately silence reigned in the splendid room, until on December 13, 1850, the club was dissolved. Soon afterwards the buildings were sold by auction for £9,000, warehouses being erected on the site.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.

The Royal Institution originated in a public meeting held in October, 1823, for the purpose of furthering the interests of literature, science, and art, and to obtain a means whereby the work of local artists might be brought before the public. At first the promoters intended purchasing premises in King-street, and having them remodelled internally. A committee was formed, and as a result of their recommendations a larger scheme was decided upon, and premises at the corner of Bond-street, occupied by Dr. William Henry and others, were secured. The architect of the building was Sir Charles Barry, and the cost of the land and buildings was £26,000. As about £32,000 had been subscribed a balance of £6,000 remained, which was spent in the purchase of works of art. For nearly sixty years the governors endeavoured to carry out the wishes of the founders, and from time to time lectures were delivered and art exhibitions held; in addition to a school of art, which met in some of the rooms. The hope that the profits accruing from the exhibitions would be sufficient to form a permanent representative collection of works of art was not realised. Therefore negotiations were opened with the Corporation, and in 1882 the building and its contents were transferred to the latter, conditional on £4,000 per annum for twenty years being provided from the rates for the purchase of the works of art, and that the Governors should nominate seven members of the Committee of Management. These conditions have been loyally observed, and in the permanent collection are a few

pictures of first rank, and many other fine examples of lesser importance. Several other buildings should be noted. The Portico was opened in 1806, and for nearly a century has had a quiet and uneventful career. Dr. Holme was its first chairman, and James Watson, the author of the "Spirit of the Doctor," was its first librarian. Previous references have been made to him. Amongst its members have been Dr. Dalton, the Rev. William Gaskell, and Dr. Ferriar. The Union Club building was erected in 1836, the club having commenced in 1825.

TWO FAMOUS COACHING HOUSES.

The Royal Hotel has a history full of interest ; and taking us back to the days of stage coach travelling, forms a link connecting the town of a century ago with the city of to-day. The site was for many years occupied by a dyehouse kept by a man named Hazlehurst ; but at a later period a large private residence was built. This was standing, unaltered, in the early part of the last century, and in the "Exchange Herald" for September, 1814, was the subject of an advertisement. The sale by auction was announced of the "Capital premises at the corner of and fronting extensively both Mosley-street and Market-street, now in the possession of Mrs. Thomas Potter." We are told that the site included a spacious garden surrounded by a wall, the whole area being 1,422 square yards. After the sale, Mr. C. B. Potter occupied the mansion until about 1826. In 1827 the house was converted into an inn, and under the name of "The Royal Hotel and New Bridgewater Arms" was conducted by Henry Charles Lacy. Lacy

had, for some years, kept the Bridgewater Arms in High-street, a famous hostelry which I shall refer to on a future occasion. Space will only permit reference to his later venture at present. He was known as proprietor of mail and post coaches, and ran many of the most important coaches running to and from various parts of the country. When he took the Mosley-street premises he made great alterations, building a coachhouse at the corner of Back Mosley-street, over which were rooms which he let to David Bannerman, who used them as a warehouse. Hitherto warehouses had been confined to the district round High-street, and the innovation was regarded with alarm by some of the residents in Mosley-street. The garden was covered over with stabling and coachsheds, and an archway was made, opening from the yard into Market-street. The passer-by can see the archway, long since filled in, in the wall near the stationer's shop. From under that archway the mail coaches rattled, as they set out on their journeys north and south. Four o'clock in the afternoon was an exciting time in the Market-street of those days, for at that hour the principal mail coaches from London, York, Birmingham, and Liverpool were timed to arrive. Punctuality was a feature of the system, and the four splendidly appointed vehicles arrived within a few minutes of each other. The coaches were usually painted red and black, the coachmen and guards were elaborately attired, the latter having a red coat, top boots, and a hat with a broad gilt hatband. The guard sat behind the roof of the coach with a pair of pistols within easy reach,

and his horn close to hand. By hearing its sound toll keepers and horse keepers were warned of the approach of the coach. The London mail from the Royal Hotel left at 7 45 a.m., and passing through Macclesfield, Ashbourne, Derby, Leicester, and Northampton arrived at the Swan with Two Necks, Lad Lane, London, at 6-30 next morning. The Birmingham mail left at 11-15 p.m., arriving at 10 o'clock next morning, and the journey to Edinburgh occupied 26 hours. In addition to the mail coaches a number of others ran from various houses in the town, eight or nine setting out daily for London alone. Thus there were arriving in and departing from the town, daily, about a hundred vehicles each way. Some of these were two-horsed, but the majority were drawn by four. May-day was always celebrated by a special turn-out. As many coaches as could be spared formed a procession, and with horses well groomed, coaches polished up, and guards and coachmen often in new livery, they must have made a splendid display. The mail coaches also formed a procession on the King's birthday, being accompanied on those occasions by the military. With the advent of the railway the old system was doomed, and although we have gained much by the railway system, the removal of the old coaches took much brightness out of our streets.



MOSLEY STREET MEMORIALS.

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PART IV.—SOME FORMER RESIDENTS.

SAMUEL ROBINSON.

At least one leading local literary man was born in Mosley-street. Samuel Robinson was born on March 23, 1794, and received his education at the Manchester New College. In the intervals of a business life he engaged in literary pursuits, and ranked high as a translator. His works included translations of Schiller's William Tell ; Schiller's Minor Poems ; Specimens of the German Lyrics ; and Persian translations, in six volumes. He died at Wilmsow, December 8, 1884.

NATHAN MEYER ROTHSCHILD.

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In 1808 and 1809 in the house that stood at the corner of York-street, where the Mercantile Bank stands, N. M. Rothschild, the future great financier, resided, carrying on business in a warehouse at 3, Back Mosley-street. Sent over from Frankfort by his father to purchase Manchester goods, he lived, first in a house in Downing-street, Ardwick, removing later to Faulkner-street, and later again to Mosley-street. In 1812, probably as a result of his father's death, he left Manchester, and settled in London. In the course of his business career, he achieved several notable feats, one of which was the securing of the intelligence of Bonaparte's escape from Elba, twenty-five hours before the news reached the British Government. He died at Frankfort, whither he had gone to attend the marriage

of his son on July 28, 1836, and was interred in the Jews' burial ground. At the corner of York-street, where the Manchester and Salford Bank was afterwards built, was a silk mill, worked by Cardwell and Longworth. At the other two corners of Mosley-street resided persons well known in the town life of eighty years ago.

HUGH HORNBY BIRLEY.

Where Chatwood's safe shop recently was, was the house occupied for many years by Hugh Hornby Birley. Mr. Birley was a captain of the yeomanry and a magistrate. In the latter capacity, he, along with a number of fellow magistrates, was present at a house overlooking St. Peter's field on the morning of August 16, 1819. It was said that he requested the Rev. C. W. Ethelston to read the Riot Act, and afterwards gave the order for the yeomanry to attack the crowd. So strong was the feeling shown against him on this account, that for many years afterwards groups of Radicals would meet opposite to his house and groan, on the anniversary of the eventful day.

The fourth corner was occupied by the house of Miss Mary Whitehead, whose father, starting in a small way as a crofter or bleacher at Levenshulme, afterwards began calico printing at Brightmet, near Bolton. He was very successful, and left the business to his three sons. Miss Whitehead, when Mosley-street commenced to change its appearance, bought an estate at Burnage, and then built a mansion which she named Brook Flat, where she lived. After her death it was re-named Burnage Hall, and as such was in more recent years tenanted by Samuel Watts.

DANIEL GRANT.

Few townspeople were more generally respected in their day than the Brothers Grant, whom Dickens immortalised as the Cheeryble Brothers in *Nicholas Nickleby*. The introduction of the manufacturers to the novelist occurred on the occasion of the latter's first visit to Manchester. He was at the time engaged in writing the novel, and had issued the earlier parts of it, when he expressed to W. Harrison Ainsworth the desire to see the interior of a cotton mill. The friends, accompanied by "Phiz" and John Foster, visited Manchester, and whilst here were entertained to dinner by James Crossley. Amongst other guests invited to meet them were the Brothers Grant. Dickens was so struck by the personality of the brothers that he at once introduced them into his novel. Generosity was a strong feature in their characters. On one occasion a firm with whom they did business failed for £70,000. Daniel Grant was appointed chairman of the creditors' meeting, and he expressed his intention to use all the power the law gave him, inasmuch as four days before the filing of the petition the debtor had obtained from them goods to the value of £1,200. The chief partner of the unfortunate firm was called in, and gave such a description of their misfortunes that Grant at once withdrew his previous decision, and promised to do all he could to extricate them from their troubles. It is said that when he arrived at the warehouse in Cannon-street in the mornings, he would find a number of needy persons awaiting his arrival; and, further, it is said that these were rarely sent away unrelieved.

Daniel Grant lived in later years lower down Mosley-street, and died there. An interesting reminiscence of his later years was told by Beddoes Peacock. It took place in 1851 when the late Queen paid her first visit to the city. In the course of a walk through the streets in the evening to see the illuminations his brother and he passed down Mosley-street, when they saw a display that far exceeded anything else in the city. It was a private house, and the whole of the front was one blaze of light produced by innumerable small oil lamps arranged amidst festoons of flowers and evergreens. In the centre of the building was a huge transparency of the Queen, surmounted by the words in letters about six feet high, "Welcome our beloved Queen." At one of the upstairs windows was an old gentleman. "He wore a coat of old-fashioned cut—short-waisted, deep-collared, double-breasted, and buttoned—in the breast of which he thrust his right hand. His double chin rested in the folds of an old-fashioned, unstarched white neckcloth." Such was the appearance of Daniel Grant a short time before his death.

DR. THOMAS TURNER.

One of the last residents in Mosley-street was the surgeon, Thomas Turner, popularly known as Dr. Turner. Born at Truro on August 16, 1793, he entered Guy's Hospital as a student under Sir Astley Cooper in 1815. He passed his College of Surgeons' examination in 1816, and afterwards spent some time in Paris. Having commenced practice in Manchester, he opened the Pine-street School of Surgery in 1824, and three

years later his certificates were accepted by the College of Surgeons. In 1830 he took up his residence in Mosley-street, and was elected on the Infirmary staff in the same year. He died on December 17, 1873, having lived in Mosley-street over forty years. As a medical man he was exceedingly popular, his professional ability being accompanied by a genial disposition that enabled him to shed rays of hope into the minds of depressed sufferers.

Other residents included Thomas Worthington, small-ware manufacturer, who afterwards removed to Sharston Hall; Leo Schuster, merchant; S. L. Behrens, the founder of the well known shipping firm; and J. F. Foster, stipendiary magistrate; and John Hall, whose son became a judge in the High Court of Chancery. David Bannerman, who was the first Scotchman and Dissenter to hold the position of boroughreeve of Manchester, died on December 1, 1829, at his house in Mosley-street; and the Rev. Thomas Calvert, D.D., warden of the Collegiate Church, lived there prior to his removal to Ardwick Green.

SAM BROOKS AND RICHARD COBDEN.

The last resident in the street that we shall mention is Samuel Brooks, the banker. He came to Manchester and became a partner in the firm of Reddish, Brooke, and Co., calico printers, and a year later opened a branch bank at his warehouse in High-street. He first resided at Granby Hall, Granby Row, removing later to 4, Lever-street, and subsequently to a house in Mosley-street, opposite to the house of Daniel Grant.

Whilst residing here the change that was destined to completely revolutionise the appearance of the street was commenced. This will be best described by quoting from a letter which Richard Cobden wrote to his brother Frederick in September, 1832. He said : " I have given such a start to Mosley-street, that all the world will be at my heels." He had purchased a house in the street, and had proceeded to convert it into a warehouse. " My next-door neighbour, Brooks, of the firm of Cunliffe and Brooks, bankers, has sold his house to be converted into a warehouse. The owner of the house on the other side has given his tenant notice for the same purpose. The house immediately opposite me has been announced for sale, and my architect is commissioned by George Hole, the calico printer, to bid six thousand guineas for it ; but they want eight thousand, for what they paid only four thousand five hundred only five years ago." He then refers to his good fortune in securing his own premises for three thousand guineas. Two years later the Unitarian Chapel was sold, and within a decade business premises occupied most of the space on both sides of the street, so rapid was the change.



YORK STREET ANNALS.

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When Laurent issued his survey of Manchester in 1793, York-street extended from Spring Gardens to Mosley-street, the portion from Mosley-street to Portland-street being called New York-street. This would arise from the fact that for many years Mosley-street marked the extent of the town on the southern side ; and as it grew in later years, and new buildings arose beyond Mosley-street, the new street was so named to prevent confusion with the older one. Early in the last century they were merged in one thoroughfare, and the entire length became known as York-street. At the corner of Spring Gardens stood the Theatre, and at the corner of Fountain-street the Concert Room, both of which will be referred to in connection with the streets named. Unlike many of the streets in the neighbourhood, York-street does not appear at any time to have been popular as a residential thoroughfare, but its history is marked by several incidents and associations that are of great interest.

YORK-STREET BAPTIST CHAPEL.

The second place of worship built in the town by the members of the Baptist persuasion was the one that stood for over forty years in York-street. Built in 1807, it was attended at one time by a wealthy congregation, but as the district changed the congregation changed, and ultimately the building and

the site were sold, and the proceeds assisted in the erection of another chapel in Moss Side. The first minister was the Rev. W. Stephens, who resided amidst rural surroundings at Green-street, Ardwick. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Birt, under whose ministry the cause prospered, and the chapel was attended week by week by numbers of strangers.

YORK-STREET BANKS.

The site now occupied by the Williams Deacon's Bank, at the corner of York-street and Mosley-street, was occupied early in the last century by Cardwell, Longworth and Co.'s silk mill. When the warehouse invasion of Mosley-street took place the mill was pulled down, and a warehouse erected, the first occupants of which were E. and J. Jackson. The premises were afterwards sold to the Manchester and Salford Bank, who erected the present building, and who removed thither from the corner of Marble-street. Another bank whose early years were associated with York-street was the Manchester and County, which commenced operations at numbers 2 and 4 on August 4, 1864. The Union Bank started business at 65, King-street in 1836, but removed soon afterwards to 7, Brown-street. There they remained until 1846, when they purchased the Lancashire Bank buildings at the corner of York-street and Fountain-street. The buildings had been erected by the South Lancashire Bank, another concern that had connections with Brown-street. In 1836 the licensed house, the George and Dragon, stood at the corner of Fountain-street.

The premises were purchased by the Lancashire Bank, who removed thither soon afterwards. In 1842 it was decided to wind up the concern, and when the process was completed the building was purchased by the Union Bank, who took possession in 1846. The National Provincial Bank was commenced in London in 1833 with a capital of one million, and in 1836 a branch was opened in offices next door to the Portico in Mosley-street. In 1852 a removal was made to other premises in Mosley-treet, and in 1891 possession was taken of the present premises at the corner of Spring Gardens.

A TALENTED FAMILY.

Henry Winkworth was a member of the firm of Winkworth and Proctor, whose warehouse was in York-street. He lived for some time at 56, Oxford-street, and afterwards in a large house at the corner of Polygon Avenue, Stockport Road. He removed to Alderley, but retiring from business he went to reside at Clifton. His daughters showed marked ability, and received their education at the hands of the Revs. W. Gaskell and Dr. Martineau. The elder daughter, Susanna, attained a high position in the literary world, and became the friend of the Hares, the Rev. J. D. Maurice, the Rev. Charles Kingsley, the Rev. Canon Percival, and Baron Bunsen. As a translator she produced English versions of a number of German works, including the "Theologia Germanica," and Max Muller's "German Love." Baron Bunsen entrusted to her the translation of his "Signs of the Times" and "God in History."

Not content with literary work, she devoted much time and thought to practical work among the poor. In this connection she rented houses in Bristol, let them out in tenements, and afterwards formed the company which built the well known Jacob's Well industrial dwellings, which she managed until her death in 1884. Her younger sister, Catherine, also showed great ability as a translator, her best work being "*Lyra Germanica*." Another business in the neighbourhood of York-street was that of James and Samuel Alcock, who occupied a small warehouse in Rook-street. Samuel Alcock was one of the executors under the will of John Owens, the founder of Owens College ; and he ultimately gave up business to devote his whole time to the winding up of his friend's affairs. Mr. Alcock was a Manchester man, having been born in a house that formerly stood at the corner of the present Lever-street and Piccadilly, when fields covered the space between there and Ardwick. For seventy years York-street has been a business street, but few names are still associated with it that were to be found here in the thirties or forties. Perhaps the firm that has been located there longest is that of Bannermans.

BANNERMANS.

It will be of interest to many to have a brief resume of the history of the house of Bannermans. The closing decades of the eighteenth and the opening decades of the nineteenth centuries were noteworthy, among other matters, for the number of young Scotchmen who made their way to Manchester, and founded in our city prosperous business concerns. Amongst

these were John Kennedy, James M'Connell, and William Fairbairn. At the same time Henry Bannerman, a Perthshire farmer, sent his son David to the town to test the prospects of success in the cotton trade. The experiment proved successful, and a few years later the father, along with the whole of his family, joined David. In 1813 the family (the father and four sons) were in business at 66, Market-street as fustian, shirting, and cambric manufacturers. Ten years later the father died, and his son David became the head of the firm, who, however, had removed to more extensive premises at 8, Marsden Square. The next move was to premises at the corner of Market-street and West Mosley-street, over the Royal Hotel coach office, that formerly stood where Standring's chemist shop now is. Up to that time warehouses had been confined to the opposite side of Market-street and the streets round Cannon, High, and Church-streets; and the innovation caused much uneasiness amongst the wealthy residents of Mosley-street and the neighbourhood. David Bannerman did not confine his energies to business matters, but took a prominent part in public work. He was appointed Boroughreeve in 1828, being the first Scotchman and Dissenter to occupy the position. He died at his residence, Mosley-street, in the following year, leaving a widow and three sons and two daughters. His brother Andrew had not joined the firm, but in partnership with J. S. Grafton carried on business as calico printers, with a warehouse at 110, Market-street, a little distance past the corner of Fountain-street. Bannermans' business still growing, it soon became

necessary to secure still more extensive premises. This was done by purchasing a plot of land in York-street, used hitherto as a timber yard, and erecting thereon the present building. John Bannerman died at Wyastone Leys, on the banks of the Wye, in Monmouthshire, in 1870, he having retired some years earlier. His brother Alexander had died in 1846, and his remaining brother Henry, had retired in 1850. Henry died at Hunten Court, Kent, in 1871. His landed estates are now held by his nephew, who is familiarly known to us as the leader of the Liberal party, he having adopted the name Bannerman, thus becoming Henry Campbell-Bannerman. In 1890 the firm was converted into a limited liability company.

Amongst the firms who were at the Spring Gardens end of York-street when Bannermans built their warehouse were George Fraser and Son, H. and E. Tootal, and Horrockses, Miller and Co. ; and the residents included James Chapman, the first borough coroner. He was appointed by the newly-formed Corporation ; W. S. Rutter occupying a similar position as coroner for the county. On one occasion Mr. Chapman summoned Mr. Rutter before the magistrates on a charge of assault in connection with an inquest. Friction between the two officials continued until the law courts declared the Charter of Incorporation to be valid.



FAULKNER STREET.

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SOME FORMER RESIDENTS.

Despite its present appearance and surroundings, Faulkner-street was not an undesirable place for residence at the close of the 18th century. At the one end it was closed in by the kitchen gardens attached to the Infirmary, where garden produce grew prolifically. At the bottom end it entered the open fields that marked the site of Dickinson-street, and fringed both sides of the newly-formed Oxford-street. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that for many years after the opening of the new century it was a residential street. A glance at the directory for 1836 tells us that in that year T. Cooper conducted a dancing academy at No. 7. His rival, S. W. Pitt, who had resided close by, had died a year earlier. Art was at one time represented by W. F. Ayrton and T. H. Illidge, the latter being a portrait painter. Religion was represented by the Rev. Samuel Bradley, who was minister of the Mosley-street Independent Chapel for 20 years, after which he resigned the position to become pastor of the Cannon-street Chapel. He removed at the same time to Cheetwood, then a delightful rural village, famed for its leafy bowers and tea gardens. For some time the Rev. John Dallas, a master of the Grammar School and curate of Birch, lived in the street. The medical profession was at one time well represented, two of the physicians belonging to the Infirmary staff, Drs. Edmund Lyon and Davenport

Hulme living at Nos. 11 and 55, with Reuben Perry and J. C. Gordon, surgeons, as fellow-residents. A neighbour of theirs, and residing at No. 27, was Dr. John Dalton, of whom an account will be given in a future article. At the bottom of the street A. Andrews, comedian, let rooms to actors paying flying visits to the town. One of these was Dowton, one of the finest Falstaffs that ever trod the boards, and a colleague of the famous Mrs. Jordan.

PINE STREET SCHOOL.

The street will, however, be longest remembered for its association with the Medical School, which was the forerunner of Owens College Medical School. It was founded by Thomas Turner, the well-known surgeon, in 1825. It commenced in humble fashion in a small building in Pine-street, and had as a teaching staff T. Turner, J. L. Bardsley, J. A. Ransome, John Dalton, Kinder Wood, W. Thompson, H. Ollier, and R. F. Hunt. In 1832 the school was enlarged, and four years later, in consideration of its excellent equipment, and of its being the first school of medicine and surgery established in the provinces, it was permitted by William IV. to attach the prefix "Royal," and became the "Manchester Royal School of Medicine and Surgery." The second of the reasons assigned is not quite correct, inasmuch as Joseph Jordan had commenced his school in 1812, and had, in 1825, built the School of Anatomy in Mount-street. The Pine-street school, however, did a good work, and became increasingly successful, and as the Mount-street school closed in 1834, and as one opened

in Marsden-street only existed for six years, in the early forties it was the only medical school in the town. The teaching staff was always a strong one, and included the best surgeons and physicians in the district. Perhaps anatomy was the branch most fortunate in its teachers and demonstrators. Following Mr. Turner was Edward Lund, who, in later years, along with Mr. Southam, became joint professor in Owens College. The eminent physician, Sir W. N. Broadbent, who entered the Pine-street school in 1854, says of Mr. Lund : " As the teacher who impressed me most, and to whom I owe a great deal in the way of mental discipline." In 1850 a fourth medical school was opened in Chatham-street, Piccadilly, but eight years later it was amalgamated with the Royal school. The latter had now, by reason of its extension, become in reality the Faulkner-street school, the principal entrance being in that street. For 15 more years it still continued to do its great work, but in 1873 it was incorporated with Owens College. The amalgamation was one of the results that followed the giving of £10,000 to the college by Miss Hannah Brackenbury. Of this sum £5,000 was devoted to the building of premises to form a medical school in accordance with the conditions of the gift, and £5,000 was devoted to the endowment of the Brackenbury Chair of Physiology and Histology, the first endowed chair in the medical school. Mr. Robert Platt endowed two scholarships for the study of Physiology ; and Mrs. Dumville, widow of one of Manchester's finest surgeons and a founder of the Chatham-street school, gave £500 to establish an annual prize in surgery.

Following the announcement of these gifts came the amalgamation, and in November, 1873, plans for the new building were approved. For a time the classes met in Faulkner-street, but on October 2, 1874, the new buildings in Coupland-street were opened by Professor T. H. Huxley, F.R.S.

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first home of the Medical Society was at 40, Faulkner-street, where the then small library was housed, the landlady acting as librarian. The society was formed at a meeting of medical men held at the York Hotel, King-street, on September 4, 1834, its object being the establishment of a medical library and reading-room, and the holding of occasional meetings for mutual improvement and the advancement of medical science. In 1845 the society took rooms at the Royal Institution, where it remained until about 1875, when it removed to Owens College. The library of the society is exceedingly valuable, and comprises about 31,000 volumes, in addition to a large number of pamphlets.

THE EYE INSTITUTION.

Still another medical institution connected with Faulkner-street was the Eye Institution that was established under humble circumstances in a house numbered 35, in the year 1815. Some years later it was removed to 13, Princess-street, a few doors from Cooper-street, and in 1874 it took up its quarters in St. John's-street. Twelve years later the final building in Oxford-street was opened, forming a striking contrast

to the commencement in 1815. When in Faulkner-street the institution was managed by a strong and representative committee, including the Rev. Moses Randall, one of the chaplains of the Collegiate Church, who resided at 6, Mount-street; John Chippendall, calico printer; John Potter, calico printer; Drs. Hull, Hulme, and Outhwaite; J. Jordan, the surgeon; Daniel Lynch, founder of the firm of Lynch and Bateman; Daniel Grant; and Adam Dugdale, the calico printer. Dr. Hull was the consulting physician, and Messrs. W. J. Wilson, Samuel Barton, and John Windsor were the surgeons. The last-named was at the time just commencing a successful career. He lived for 53 years in the house numbered 29, Piccadilly, dying in 1868, aged 81 years. One of his sons afterwards became known as a member of the City Council, and the late Mr. J. C. Needham married one of his daughters.

THE FOUNDER OF A WELL KNOWN FIRM.

More than a century ago Thomas Sharp built a block of buildings at the corner of York-street, and lived in one of the houses for many years. In 1793 his son Thomas died, and ten years later the father followed. His business of a joiner and builder was conducted for a short time by William, his only surviving son. When he retired from the business it passed to David Bellhouse, another Faulkner-street resident, and since then the name has been associated with that branch of the trade, the family retaining the business founded so long ago by Thomas Sharp. About the same time Thomas Sharp, of the third generation, commenced an

iron business in Market Stead Lane. In 1811 the business was known as Sharp, Greenleaves, and Co., New York-street, with a warehouse at the Oxford-street Wharf, not far from Bellhouse's timber yard. Another change took place when R. C. Sharp joined his brother, the firm becoming Sharp Brothers, and in 1823 a third brother, John, became a partner. Subsequently Richard Roberts, the well known engineer joined the brothers, the style of the firm becoming Sharp, Roberts, and Company. In 1838 they had removed their works to Oxford-street, their offices being in Faulkner-street. In 1841 William Sharp died, and two months later his elder brother Thomas passed away. He had taken a prominent part in public affairs, and had been Borough-reeve in 1819. The making of locomotives was rapidly absorbing the attention of the members of the firm, who now comprised representatives of a new generation ; and about 1849 a new element was introduced into the firm by the admission of C. P. Stewart, a grandson of the seventh Earl of Galloway. Other changes took place, and the firm became Sharp, Stewart, and Company. Time brought further changes, but space will not permit reference to them here. It will be seen, however, how two great concerns owe their origin to a one-time resident of Faulkner-street.



SPRING GARDENS.

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PART I.—THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

Few subjects are more interesting to antiquarians than the tracing of the origin of place-names. Some names require no such investigation. They are self-contained within themselves. Of such is our street name, Spring Gardens. Given over now entirely to the pursuits of commerce, there was a time when gardens abounded, when flowers bloomed, and when to live there was to live beyond the actual town. No black smoke polluted the atmosphere save that arising from the small number of domestic hearths that clustered round the parish church and the market place ; and no manufacturing refuse poisoned the streams that ran through open fields. In 1745 a few houses stood in Spring Gardens, but the open fields extended to the gardens of the houses on the south side. In one of these gardens there had been found many years before a spring supplying water of a clearness and a coolness that made it superior to much found in other districts round the town.

A plentiful supply of pure water was as important to the community in those early days as it is to-day, and, therefore, the burgesses were deeply indebted to Isabella Beck when she caused the construction of the Manchester's first waterworks to be commenced, carried out, and endowed at her own personal expense. This would be about 1557, for we find a reference to the

conduit in the court leet records for 1558. The supply was conducted down the lane now known as Spring Gardens, and down the Marketstead Lane by pipes to a conduit that stood in the Market Place. For over two hundred years it continued to be the principal water supply in the town. Further reference to the conduit will be in place when dealing with the Market Place. For the present we leave it, having noted the origin of our street name.

THE THEATRE : THE FIRST THEATRE ROYAL.

Just about the time that the conduit ceased to flow, a movement was set on foot for the erection of a theatre in the town. When erected, it would appear to have been built upon the garden in which the spring to which we have referred rose, for when the theatre was pulled down in 1869 the spring was once again brought to light. It was found to be below the stage, about 15 feet below the street level, and contained water about another 15 feet deep. During the alterations then in progress it was drained away, thus removing all traces of Manchester's first water supply.

In 1775 the Manchester Playhouse Bill passed through Parliament in spite of a most determined opposition to it, and on June 5, 1775, the first Manchester Theatre Royal was opened. It stood at the corner of Spring Gardens and York-street, and was opened by Messrs. Mattocks and Younger. It speedily became a popular resort, and many eminent players appeared on its boards. Miss Farren, who afterwards married the Earl of Derby, and whose younger daughter married the Earl of Wilton

in 1821, thereby becoming the lady of Heaton Park, made one of her earliest appearances on the stage there. In 1776 another great actress joined the stock company, and when we remember that that combination included Mr. and Mrs. Siddons, Mr. and Mrs. Inchbald, and John Philip Kemble, we realise what an array of histrionic talent appeared before the citizens more than a century ago. About the same period there also appeared such well known stars as Munden, F. J. Cooke, Mrs. Jordan, Ryley, and Wright Bowden. But the career of the building was checked for a time by a fire which burned the place down on June 19, 1789. It was rebuilt by Joseph Harrop, the proprietor of the "Manchester Mercury," and was reopened on February 15, 1790, when Messrs. Ward and Banks undertook the management. The stock company was a strong one and included G. F. Cooke, the Manchester Roscius, Ryley, and Dibdin, some of whose songs still survive. Whilst here he was a sort of man-of-all-work, in turn acting, singing, writing songs and farces, scene painting, and prompting. In 1793 he married Miss Hilliar, of the Bolton Theatre, and retired to London. Under the name of Green, which he soon dropped, Charles Mayne Young made his first appearance in December, 1798. As an actor he displayed marvellous versatility, playing comedy and tragedy with equal facility. He married Julianna Grimani, who appeared with him in "Romeo and Juliet," in 1805; but a year later she died, and was interred in Prestwich Church yard. She was only 21 years of age, and the touching lines placed on her gravestone can still be read. Young made his

first appearance in London in 1807, playing "Hamlet." His was a successful career, closed by a few years of ease and retirement.

In 1804 for a week the boards were occupied by a prodigy known as the young Roscius. He made in all eight appearances, and on the last night, in spite of increased charges for admission, the theatre was again full, the receipts being £300. Although only a boy, he played on those nights Frederick, Young Norval, Richard III., Octavian, Hamlet, Achmet. Another name that should be mentioned was Stephen Kemble, whose Falstaff required no stuffing, and who seems to have been the only entirely warm-hearted member of a family whose histrionic ability was too often marred by an undesirable temperament. The career of the building as the patent theatre was rapidly drawing to a close, and on Friday, June 12, 1807, the closing performance under such designation took place. The new Theatre Royal had been erected in Fountain-street, and for many years the older building had a variable career.

THE AMPHITHEATRE.

In 1809 Robert Bradbury, well known in Manchester, opened the building under this new designation. As the sole right to produce stage plays in the town was vested in the holders of the "patent," Bradbury sought to attract patronage by introducing a form of entertainment so popular in our days. His were variety shows, and the items included singing, dancing, acrobatic performances, and a new pantomimic every week. Later on Walford appeared in tight rope performances, and

displays of horsemanship were also provided ; but the venture failed to secure popular support and Bradbury abandoned the undertaking in 1812. Mr. Roe renewed the attempt two years later and produced " pantomimes, spectacles, and melodramas as at the Surrey Theatre." He changed the name to that of the Minor Theatre, and appears to have been fairly successful. Succeeding managers had varying success, until just after the ascension of Queen Victoria a relaxation of the law enabled the production of stage plays, when it took another name, being known as the

QUEEN'S THEATRE.

In the early days of the Queen's the most popular players appearing there were the Beverleys and Mrs. M'Gibbon, Vandenhoff, and Miss Fife. The last-named made her first appearance under the management of J. H. Anderson, the " Great Wizard of the North." At first engaged as a dancer, she did not attempt serious acting until as Mrs. Bickerstaff she made herself famous for her representation of Sophia in the " Vicar of Wakefield," and other leading parts. Another famous actress belonging to the same period should be mentioned. In 1845 Helen Faucit made her first appearance in Manchester on the Queen's boards. Thirty-four years later she made her final appearance on any stage at the Theatre Royal. Samuel Butler was a popular actor half a century ago, and it was said that his Macbeth and Richelieu were next in point of finish to those of Macready ; whilst his Iago was rarely excelled on the Manchester stage. He died at an early age, and was

interred at the Ardwick Cemetery, near the grave of John Dalton, his gravestone bearing a beautifully worded inscription by his friend Charles Swain.

In 1853 Barney Egan took over the management in succession to G. Preston. It was under the latter that two young men who afterwards became famous, made their first bows to Manchester audiences. Charles Dillon, who became popular for his acting in such plays as "Belphegor," "The Three Musketeers," "Don Cæsar," "William Tell," "and "Hamlet," first appeared in 1849 ; and a year later Douglas Stewart was announced. Very soon the adopted name was dropped, and A. E. Sothern, a member of a Lancashire family with connections with Worsley and Eccles, commenced that career which ended so brilliantly in the creation and representation of Lord Dundreary. Before this, but after his connection with the Queen's had closed, he managed the theatre at Weymouth, where he gave Charles Calvert his first engagement on any stage. With this reference to an interesting association of the names of well known actors with its boards, we must close our chat about the building which was finally closed and pulled down in 1869. In my next I shall refer to some notable residents in Spring Gardens.



SPRING GARDENS.

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PART II.—SOME NOTABLE RESIDENTS.

On the site of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank buildings at the top of King-street there stood a large house owned and occupied in 1773 by Robert Hamilton, fustian and check manufacturer. He also owned land in Crow Alley, so called from the rookery that occupied some trees in a garden there. After his death disputes arose as to the division of his property, and ultimately his estates were thrown into Chancery ; and it is said that on account of this arose the change of the street name Crow Alley into Chancery Lane. Another resident was John Hardman, silk and fustian manufacturer, who built Granby Hall, and went to reside there. The hall was then delightfully situated with a garden at the back sloping down to the river.

A PIONEER OF CHEAP LITERATURE.

Another one time resident deserves a more lengthy notice. In 1797 George Nicholson, printer, occupied premises then numbered 9, Spring Gardens, and issued from that address several publications, including a reprint of Robert Dodsley's "The Economy of Human Life," and a pamphlet writted by himself "On the Conduct of Man to Inferior Animals." Born at Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1760, Nicholson became a printer, and at once turned his attention to the improvement and cheapening of books. He recognised the advan-

tage possessed by duodecimos over folios for general reading, and when he commenced publishing his "Literary Miscellany," which comprised a series of choice anthologies, he printed it in small 18mo., so that the volumes could be carried in the pocket. Beautifully printed and illustrated by some of Thomas Bewick's choicest work, the set of 20 volumes is now scarce and valuable. He published many other works, some compiled or written by himself, but all small in size, and low in price. As a vegetarian he issued several books in favour of the system, and was one of the first to publish what might be termed a vegetarian cookery book. This was a tract, published in 1803, in which may be found recipes for the preparation of "one hundred perfectly palatable and highly-nutritious substances which may easily be secured at an expense much below the price of the limbs of our fellow-animals." He resided successively at Manchester, Poughnill, and Stourport, and died at the last-named place on November 1, 1825, aged 65 years. A writer in the "Gentleman's Magazine" said that "he possessed in an eminent degree strength of intellect, with universal benevolence and undeviating uprightness of conduct." Allied to the printing business is the art of the engraver, consequently we may supplement our reference to Nicholson by noting the fact that in 1821 Thomas Cave, a well known engraver and copper-plate printer, occupied premises next door to those previously occupied by Nicholson. In 1839 the firm had changed to W. and H. Cave, and the street having been renumbered, their premises were numbered 23.

THE LOGIERIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The system of teaching music instituted by J. B. Logier was taught by Andrew Ward at 29, Spring Gardens. He was a partner with Richard Andrews in 1839 in a music business conducted at number 55. The system taught has since then been pretty generally adopted, although the name of its introducer may be forgotten. It consisted of teaching pupils the theory as well as the practice of music, in the early as in the later stages of tuition. Thus in teaching a class, the treble of a simple but not well known tune would be written on the blackboard, and the pupils were required to fill in the bass notes. Mr. Ward's nephew, D. W. Banks, was in later years a leading light in local musical circles, and reference will be made to him in connection with the Concert Hall. Mr. Andrews composed a number of popular pianoforte pieces.

AN OLD CARRYING FIRM.

In 1829 the firm of Pickford and Co. were described as the only carriers by van from Manchester, their office being at No. 5, Spring Gardens. The name of Pickford as a carrier has been familiar to Manchester people for over sixty years. In our first directory, published in 1772, we find that Matthew Pickford carried goods to London by waggon, and four years later he advertised his business in "Prescott's Manchester Journal." His flying waggons, which accomplished the journey to London in four and a half days, left Manchester twice weekly. His carrying business increased so much that in 1803, when fears of a French

invasion troubled all classes, he offered to place at the disposal of the Government, in order to facilitate the transport of troops and baggage, four hundred horses, fifty wagons, and twenty-eight boats. The concern passed from the Pickford family to Joseph Baxendale in 1815, but the name was retained and is still familiar.

When Manchester was incorporated, W. B. Watkin was one of the first councillors elected for Ardwick Ward. j. He resided at Legh Place, and carried on business as a drysalter at 42, Spring Gardens. He retired from the Council in 1841, but was appointed an alderman in 1844, occupying the position until his resignation in 1862. He was the fifth Mayor elected. As a business man he was a well known character seventy years ago. We are told by a contemporary that his buckskin breeches and top boots earned for him the designation of "Buckskin Billy." He died on June 24, 1864.

TWO SCARCE BROADSIDES.

On Tuesday, December 27, 1825, a sheet was issued entitled "The Manchester Times and Stretford Chronicle," No. 1,000, price 6d; printed and published by Paul Pasquin, Panton Press, Spring Gardens. A month later No. 1 of "The Whip" was issued by Paul Pasquin, Pavilion Press, Spring Gardens. The price charged was sixpence, and it bore the following motto :

Satire's my weapon ; but I'm too discreet
To run amuck and tilt at all I meet ;
I only wear it in a land of hectors—
Thieves, super cargoes, sharpers, and directors.

Both productions were satirical, the former having reference to a proposal to cut a ship canal from Manchester to the mouth of the Dee. The share capital was to be £1,000,000, but the bill was rejected by Parliament. Both sheets were issued by Ben Oldfield, who then kept the White Bear, Piccadilly. Oldfield was a humorous character, and it was said after his death that "he might not be inaptly called the Peter Pindar of Lancashire; his wit was keen and brilliant, and his humour rough."

One story told of him had reference to Robert Wilson, the proprietor of the Albion. One night when Oldfield was dining with a party of gentlemen at the Albion, Wilson asked the head waiter, in a loud whisper, to fetch two bottles of port from bin 27 in the cellar under the Infirmary pond. Presently the waiter returned with an old hat on his head and enveloped in a tattered overcoat, both covered with whitewash and cobwebs, as also were the bottles he carried. Many of the guests really thought they had come from a cellar under the pond, until Oldfield sent for one of his waiters, and told him to run to his cellar under the new Bailey and bring half a dozen bottles from bin 102. This order given in all seriousness produced the desired effect.

A WELL KNOWN HOUSE.

When the clearance was made preparatory to the erection of the present Post Office, a well known house was pulled down. The Clarence Hotel was a noted meeting-place for business men, merchants and manufacturers crowding it on Market days. Not only so,

journalists, literary men, and artists frequented the smoke-room, where J. P. Stokes, for a quarter of a century the Manchester correspondent of the "Times," was a sort of presiding genius. In another room the Literary Club met for a time, when Joseph Chattwood was president.

BANKING ASSOCIATIONS.

The Manchester and Liverpool District Bank commenced operations in 1829 in the premises at the corner of Norfolk-street and Brown-street, occupied now by the branch of the Union Bank. On June 20, 1834, the foundation stone of the present building in Spring Gardens was laid by Robert Barbour. After its vacation by the District Bank, the Norfolk-street Bank was occupied by James Sewell and Nephew, whose business was taken over by the Union Bank.

A younger Bank is that known as the Lancashire and Yorkshire. It dates back to 1872, when a company was formed to take over the Manchester business of the Alliance Bank, who in 1864 had commenced business in King-street in offices nearly opposite to the premises of Cunliffe Brooks and Co. For ten years the new company under the style of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank conducted business in the old premises; but in 1889 a move was made to the building in Spring Gardens. As illustrating the development of banking facilities during the last few decades it may be pointed out that forty years after the Alliance opened its Manchester branch, its successors had sixty-two branches.

FOUNTAIN STREET.

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PART I.—THE FIRST CONCERT HALL.

Fountain-street, like Spring Gardens, derived its name from the springs that were formerly to be found in the neighbourhood. Previous to the making of Norfolk-street, a reservoir supplied by one of these springs stood in what was known as Marriott's field, and formed a supplementary water supply to the conduit.

The first building of note was the Concert Hall that formerly stood at the corner of York-street and gave the name to Concert Lane. Prior to the erection of the hall, music had no recognised centre in the town. One old writer tells us that during two months of the year concerts were given three times a week in the theatre that then stood in Marsden-street, the orchestra consisting of two violins, a clarionet, and a bassoon. In addition to this, concerts were given at Day's Coffee House (which stood where the pavement in Exchange-street now is), in the Market Place. In a room there, once a fortnight, "as much harmony as ten single-keyed German flutes could produce delighted the favoured auditors." With these flautists commenced the movement known for so many generations as the Gentlemen's Concerts; and by them and their friends the first Concert Hall was built. The foundation stone was laid by Edward Greaves, of Culcheth, on August 24, 1775. The money for building was lent by Matthew Travis, the cost being £600. In September,

1777, the building was opened by a musical festival, which extended over three days and is said to have been the first one held in England. The concert room was 81 feet long and 30 feet wide, and could accommodate 1,200 persons. The subscribers numbered nearly five hundred, the annual subscription being four guineas. Aston says "The room was lighted by elegant gas chandeliers, and on public nights the numerous assemblage of fair Lancashire witches listening to the 'concord of sweet sounds' from the parterre and gallery, afford a rich treat to the eyes of the admirers of female beauty, whilst the lovers of harmony are gratified by the excellence of both amateur and professional performers." A century ago there were six choral and six miscellaneous concerts given each season. In 1812 Madame Catalini appeared there, and during her visit she sang at St. John's Church for the benefit of the Infirmary, when the collection amounted to £150; and in 1813 Mr. Braham appeared for the first time. In 1828 a great musical festival was held in the Theatre Royal; and in 1836 another was held. These were the outcome of the work done by the Concert Committee. Many well known local singers and musicians were associated with the concerts given in the building during the 54 years that it was in use. Most of these have been forgotten, and although many names could be given they would, therefore, convey no meaning to the reader. Perhaps an exception may be made in connection with the Sudlows, who for so many years played a prominent part in the work done. William Sudlow, who kept a music shop in Hanging Ditch,

played in the orchestra for over twenty years ; and Edward Sudlow played in many concerts. Both played the violin. Another familiar name is that of Richard Wainwright, organist at St. Ann's, who played the violoncello. Crosdell was at the same time chief violoncellist, his salary being £52 10s. per annum. The principal oboe was paid £42, principal trumpet £21, principal bassoon £21, and Ashbridge, who played the drums, received £31 10s. One of the occasional singers at the concerts a century ago was a tenor named Spray. He started life as a weaver at Bulwell, Nottinghamshire, but being dissatisfied with his position, he wandered through the country in search of work. When at Lichfield he heard of a vacancy in the choir, applied for and got it. He afterwards became principal tenor in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, from whence he moved to London, when he sang at the Drury Lane oratorios. He was one of the finest tenor singers of his day. Another popular singer was Miss Deborah Travis, who began life as a cotton operative at Shaw, near Oldham, became a great singer, made her last appearance at the Birmingham Festival in 1847, and died at Shaw in 1876. In 1831 the concerts were removed to the new building in Peter-street.

THE SECOND THEATRE ROYAL.

Second in importance to the Concert Hall of the buildings that have stood in Fountain-street was the second Theatre Royal, of which the foundations were laid in 1806. It was opened in June, 1807, with the comedy, "Folly as it Flies," Mr. Macready, the father

of the celebrated tragedian, taking the management. As originally built the theatre was much too large, as will be realised from the fact that facing Fountain-street, with the back entrance in Back Mosley-street, it extended from Charlotte-street to the Garrick's Head. The box entrance and lobby was wide enough to have permitted a carriage to pass along from one end to the other. This lobby was afterwards converted into a warehouse, which stood between the theatre and the Garrick's Head. Other alterations were made, and with the rent reduced from the original one of £1,600 to half that amount, the building proved more successful from a financial point of view. Many leading stars appeared on its boards, amongst the earliest being Mrs. Siddons, Munden, young Roscius and Elliston. When his father met with financial disaster, young Macready, then only a youth of sixteen, became manager of the stock company, and soon showed wonderful aptitude for work. In 1811 and 1813 Joseph Grimaldi appeared, and towards the end of 1813 John Astley was there with his equestrian troupe. On its stage Pagannini gave some of those marvellous performances on the violin which are not yet lost-sight of by lovers of that instrument. One who saw him, after describing the fight he had in order to secure entrance to the pit, speaks of his tall gaunt figure, fine forehead, and intellectual face. Nothing could exceed his awkward appearance as he stood bowing in response to the cheers that greeted him. But when he commenced playing a marvellous change came over him, and his whole soul seemed absorbed in the instrument from which he produced such delightful music.

In 1828 a great musical festival was held. It commenced on Monday, September 29, and lasted a week, closing with a fancy dress ball. The morning concerts, which comprised oratorios and choral selections, were given in the Collegiate Church, the evening concerts being given in the Theatre Royal. The great attraction was the celebrated singer, Madame Catalini, and included amongst the other vocalists were Madame Stockhausen, Madame Caradori Allan, Miss Stephens, Mr. Braham, Mr. E. Taylor, Signor Carioni, Signor Pellegrini, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Knyvett. The leader of the morning concerts was Mr. F. Cramer, and in the evenings Mr. Mori officiated. The band was composed of twenty-three violins, six violas, six violoncellos, six double basses, two flutes, two oboes, two clarionets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, four trombones, one harp, and one drum. These figures will give some idea as to the composition of an orchestra eighty years ago. The profits of the festival, £5,000, were paid over to various charities. Eight years later an even greater festival took place when the Theatre Royal, the Assembly Rooms, and the Portico were joined by covered passages over the streets. Many great singers and musicians were heard at the concerts at the Collegiate Church and the Theatre ; but a gloom was cast over the event by the death of the great singer Malibran, who although not entirely recovered from a serious illness, sang with extraordinary power. The effort was great, too great, for she was carried from the room to her bed. from which she never again arose. She was buried in the Collegiate Church, but her remains

were afterwards removed to Laeken. In 1842 the theatre was used for the purpose of a bazaar organised by the Anti-Corn Law League. It continued open for ten days, and nearly £10,000 was taken.

The career of the building was rapidly drawing to a close, but a few interesting facts must be noticed. On October 21, 1843, John Reeves was engaged to sustain principal and other singing parts at a salary of three pounds ten shillings per week, and on the 23rd he played Edwy in "Alfred the Great," and a few days later he sang "My Pretty Jane." In later years as Sims Reeves he filled the greatest halls in the country by his inimitable rendering of this and other ballads. The stock company at this time included Charles Pitt, Charles Horsman, William Davidge, Walter Grisdale, R. H. Wyndham, Miss Fife (afterwards Mrs. Bickerstaffe) Mrs. Horsman, and Miss Emmeline Montague. On May 6, 1844, a performance of "The Winter's Tale" and Dicken's "Christmas Carol" was given by the company, and it proved to be the last, for early next morning the building was burned down, and visitors to the ruins next day saw the ladies of the ballet sitting disconsolate on the steps of Dr. Halley's Chapel, gazing at the wreck.



FOUNTAIN STREET.

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PART II.—THE MEAL MARKET.

A century ago oatmeal was a more essential article of food to thousands of English people than is the case to-day. In towns therefore the meal market was a useful institution, and formerly the Manchester one was held in a building, and an adjoining yard, in Fountain street, just out of Market-street Lane. Meal-street denotes the site. One writer says of the market that "the quantity of oatmeal exposed there for sale every Saturday is matter for astonishment to persons from the Southern counties, where that kind of food is only used as an addition to broths, or to make gruels." A resident of Meal-street in 1836 attained to a certain amount of fame by reason of his enormous size. This was Alexander M'Minn, whose smithy stood two doors from Fountain-street on the right hand side of Meal-street. When Henry Livversedge, the Manchester artist, was painting his picture representing Falstaff and his soldiers, "the villains who marched wide between the legs as though they'd gyves on," he selected the jovial blacksmith to sit for the fat knight. When the smithy and adjoining premises were pulled down to make way for a warehouse M'Minn crossed over Market-street, and took up his quarters in a smithy that stood near the present entrance to Ryland's warehouse in Tib-street. He was a well known character, and when not at work would usually be seen standing with his leather apron on at the corner of Garden-street, now known as Bridge-water Place.

AN EARLY RESTAURANT.

Amongst the quaint effusions contained in that curious publication bearing the equally curious title of "Gimcrackiana" is one entitled "The Fountain-street refectory." It essays to describe what was probably Manchester's first restaurant. In 1824 it was customary for business men to dine at home. Country manufacturers dined at the licensed houses that were to be found in the vicinity of the Market Place and Hanging Ditch. There was therefore little demand for the accommodation that forms a feature of our present day business life. The first venturous spirit to enter upon a new departure was James Hudswell who opened a dining room in Fountain-street. The novelty of the venture is thus dealt with by Gregson :—

" Since Hudswell first in Manchester began
To dress a dinner on the Cockney plan,
A guttling mania hath assail'd the town,
At one o'clock, to gulp his good things down.
If near that hour I meet some well-known face,
He asks if I have dined at this new place ;
Inquires not now if I am well or not—
Nay, th' weather is itself forgot.
That omnipresent theme when others fail,
Like salt at table, or ' mine host's ' mild ale ;
The truths we hear on what we knew before,
Such as, ' 'tis cold,' ' 'tis wet,' are now no more ;
' What is there doing in your way of late ?'
Or, ' What the upshot of the next debate ?'
Are all absorb'd, like gravy in a chop,
The only converse now, ' the new cook shop.' "

In humorous fashion the writer refers to the various items contained in the bill of fare, describes the bustle of the place, and closes with a word of apology for writing on so "unworthy" a subject. As showing how slowly the number of eating houses grew, it may

be pointed out that in 1838 there were only eighteen in the town, six of which were in Deansgate.

A LICENSED HOUSE WITH INTERESTING ASSOCIATIONS.

At the corner of York-street and Fountain-street, where the Union Bank stands, there formerly stood a public-house known as the George and Dragon. In 1813 the house was kept by Thomas Whitlow, and after his death by his widow. She married again, and in 1824 Matthew Depear was the landlord ; and in 1838 the name Henry Jewsbury appears in the directory. Around these names an interesting story is woven. Mrs. Whitlow had a son and a daughter. The former was apprenticed to J. W. Gualter, who kept an old-fashioned chemist's shop that stood at the corner of Market-street Lane and Tib-street. There he became acquainted with a fellow apprentice, Henry Jewsbury, whose father, Thomas Jewsbury, was the local agent for the "West of England Insurance Company," and whose sisters became well known in literary circles. Henry Jewsbury and Whitlow afterwards commenced business as chemists and druggists in Market-street, and after the latter had retired from the partnership, Jewsbury took a new partner named W. Scott Brown, thereby founding the concern known as Jewsbury and Brown. Henry Jewsbury was also financially interested in the firm of Jewsbury, Crux, and Gething. He married Mrs. Whitlow's daughter, and this accounts for the appearance of his name in connection with the George and Dragon. Mrs. Whitlow married Mr. M. Depear, who was a fustian manufacturer of Cannon-street, and

who was a man of literary tastes and a contributor of poems to various periodicals. He presided at the meeting held at the house of Wilmot Henry Jones, St. Stephen-street, Salford, on April 27, 1839, to celebrate the publication of Philip James Bailey's "Festus." Considering the associations of the house we are not surprised to learn that John Stanley Gregson, whose "Gimcrackiana" has just been referred to, was a frequenter of it. The story is told that on one occasion having imbibed too freely he was the cause of a disturbance in the house, He was turned out as a consequence, and was requested not to enter again. He thereupon produced the following lines :—

“ ‘ Who'er has travelled life's dull round
Where'er his toilsome journey's been,
Must sigh to think how oft he's found
His warmest welcome at an inn.'
The contrary we here may trace ;
For quaffing of an extra flagon
The writer held in sad disgrace
Was banish'd from the George and Dragon.”

A MANCHESTER WORTHY.

Many notable men have been associated with Fountain-street, but few were for so long a period connected with it as George Hadfield. Mr. Hadfield was a Yorkshireman, having been born at Sheffield in 1788, and it was in his native town that he served his articles to an attorney. He afterwards came to Manchester, and was for many years in partnership with Joseph Grave at 38, Fountain-street. In 1825 the Rusholme Road Congregational Chapel was opened, the funds for building it having been obtained largely by his efforts.

He resided at that time in a large house numbered 20, Oxford-street, but removed later to one in Cavendish-street, facing All Saints' Church. The statement made by several writers that he came to Manchester in 1839 is therefore incorrect. He was resident at Cavendish-street in 1829, when he published the report of His Majesty's Commissioners concerning Dame Sarah Hewley's Charity, the inquiry into which had resulted from his efforts. In 1832 the first Parliamentary contest in Manchester took place, and at the nominations which took place in St. Ann's Square, Mr. Hadfield seconded the nomination of Charles Poulett Thomson, who, with Mark Philips, was returned at the head of the poll. He was one of the earliest supporters of the Free Trade movement, and was a member of the provisional committee formed prior to the organisation of the Anti-Corn Law League. He gave much valuable assistance to the League, and when in 1860 a fund was raised to assist Mr. Cobden, Mr. Hadfield subscribed the sum of £500. When the Lancashire Independent College, Whalley Range, was established in 1840 he contributed £2,000 to the funds, and in many other ways assisted the Independent movement in Manchester. In 1852 he was returned Liberal member of Parliament for Sheffield, which town he represented until 1874. He died at his residence, Conyngham Road, Victoria Park, on April 21, 1879.

Among others who have been connected with the street may be mentioned James Pigot, engraver and copper plate printer, whose apprentice, Isaac Slater, afterwards became his partner. About 1841 Mr.

Pigot retired, leaving Mr. Slater in charge of the business that has become famous as publishers of directories. Prior to 1858, S. and J. Watts occupied a warehouse at number 22 ; at number 47A, John Bright and Brothers carried on business nearly fifty years ago ; and at number 77, Messrs. Callender, Sons, and Dodgshon were located for a period.

John Kaye, who carried on business as a cabinet maker, at number 82, was the builder of the first villa erected in Greenheys Lane, Greenheys Hall up to then being the only house with the exception of a few country cottages. Mr. Kaye's house stood at the corner of Greenhill-street ; and assisted financially by Miss Byrom, he afterwards built many of the fine houses that have in our time, along with the pleasant gardens that surrounded them, given place to rows of small houses.



GEORGE STREET MEMORIALS.

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PART I.—THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

The history of George-street has not yet extended over a century and a half. Like many neighbouring thoroughfares it was in its early days purely residential, and at one time was extremely select. The name does not appear in the list of streets that formed the town in 1773, and in the directory for 1788 few references to it are to be found. It had, however, thus early in its career become the centre of two important movements, the one scientific and the other religious. The former movement had taken concrete form under the designation of the Literary and Philosophical Society. Like many other leading organisations, the society had a very humble origin. Thomas Percival, M.D., F.R.S., M.R.C.S., lived in King-street for many years; and, being a scientific scholar of remarkable attainments, attracted to himself the scientific men resident in the town. At first the re-unions were confined to those who were personal friends; but the circle increased so much, and the value of the communications prepared and read ranked so high in value, that it was necessary to arrange for more formal gatherings. The friends, therefore, formed themselves into a club that met weekly at a tavern for the promotion of science and literature. The next move made was the erection of a building that should provide accommodation and facilities not to be obtained in any other way. This

resulted in the purchase of land and the erection of the house still standing in George-street. This took place in 1804, the building costing £600. In 1880 structural alterations were made at a cost of £4,000. Few English societies can boast of a career so distinguished or so closely associated with scientific research, or including in the lists of their members so many men who have earned more than national fame as can the "Lit. and Phil." In the early years of its career it embraced amongst its members Dr. Thomas Percival ; Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff ; the Rev. Dr. Barnes, of Cross-street Chapel ; Mr. Thomas Henry, F.R.S. ; Dr. John Ferrier, whose "Illustrations of Sterne" betokened fine taste and wide reading ; Dr. James Currie, and John Dalton. To enumerate the names of distinguished men who have been associated with it would be a serious undertaking, and we must content ourselves with a few of the more important discoveries made by some of its members.

Of the work done by Dr. Dalton I shall say something in a later paragraph. William Sturgeon, the originator of the electro magnet, made a number of important discoveries in the study of electricity. His attention was drawn to the science in a peculiar manner. Early in life, when serving in the artillery, a terrific thunder-storm caused him to commence those investigations which ended in him making the discoveries which preceded the remarkable developments of later days. Dr. P. J. Joule enriched scientific knowledge by his discoveries in the conservation of heat, and the determination of the equivalence of heat and energy. He had

studied mathematics and chemistry under Dalton, and much of his work consisted in following up and further developing the investigations of his tutor. E. W. Binney was a recognised authority in geology. He was unequalled in his knowledge of the geology of the Manchester district, and of the carboniferous strata more particularly. Engineering science has been enriched by the researches of Richard Roberts, Sir William Fairbairn, and Osborne Reynolds and other members of the society. Professor Arthur Schuster, who conducted four expeditions formed to observe solar eclipses, and who in 1882 succeeded in photographing the spectrum of the solar corona ; Dr. Edward Schunck, the discoverer of chrysammic acid ; Dr. Balfour Stewart, Sir Henry Roscoe, and Dr. Schorlemmer have also been distinguished members. After a career extending over more than a century and a quarter the society is still carrying on its valuable work ; and included in its roll of members are all the leading scientists of the district. Having thus roughly sketched the career and work of the society we may turn our attention to the life and labours of one of Manchester's most distinguished citizens.

DR. JOHN DALTON.

John Dalton, Manchester's foremost scientist, was born at Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth, in 1766. He was of Quaker parentage, and remained a Friend until his death. He commenced teaching when only twelve years old in his native village ; but in 1781, carrying his belongings in a bundle, he walked to Kendal. There

he became usher in a school where his eldest brother already taught, and a few years afterwards the brothers took over the school. For 12 years Dalton lived a quiet, secluded life, filling up the intervals of teaching by studying natural philosophy. In 1793 he came to Manchester, and remained here until his death in 1844. He became tutor of mathematics and natural philosophy at the Academy in Mosley-street, his income being £50 a year. In 1800 he became secretary of the "Lit. and Phil.," in 1808, he was appointed vice-president and in 1817 he became president, holding the position until his death. For nearly 30 years he lived with the Rev. William Johns, whose acquaintance he made at the Academy. It is said that when the two friends met on one occasion Mr. Johns asked Dalton how it was that he never came to see them. "I don't know," replied Dalton, "but I will come and live with you if you will let me." Thus were the preliminaries of a long residence arranged. Mr. Johns lived in a house that stood opposite the home of the "Lit. and Phil.," and as the society had given up one of its rooms for Dalton's private use as a study and laboratory, the arrangement was a most convenient one. Dalton was systematic in his habits, allowing himself only two forms of relaxation. One consisted of spending Thursday afternoon in the summer months on the bowling green of the Dog and Partridge, at Old Trafford, and the other was an annual visit to the Lake district. For 42 years on the same day of the same month, he is said to have ascended Helvellyn. In 1808 he published "A New System of Chemical Philosophy," which was followed

two years later by a second part. The first hint of his great discovery of the atomic theory was contained in a paper read before the members of the "Lit. and Phil." in 1803. Without Dalton's great discovery, Professor F. W. Clarke tells us, that "organic chemistry would be quite unintelligible, a mere dust of unrelated facts." In 1826 he received the gold medal of the Royal Society for his scientific discoveries, and in 1833 his statue was raised by Sir Francis Chantry, the cost, £2,000, being met by subscription. In the same year he received a pension of £150 a year from the King, which enabled him to pass the closing years of his life in comparative ease. He died on July 27, 1844, and was buried in the Ardwick Cemetery. Such was the respect in which he was held by his fellow townsmen that 40,000 visited the Town Hall on the day that his body lay in state. The funeral procession took the form of a great public function, most of the mills, workshops, and shops being closed.

REV. WILLIAM JOHNS.

The year following the death of Dalton saw the death of his old friend the Rev. W. Johns, whose house for so many years had been to him a home. Mr. Johns was a man of literary attainments, and he was the author of "Use and Origin of Figurative Language," "Importance of the Scriptures," and "Origin of Verbs." It was as a schoolmaster that he was best known, his school in George-street ranking high among the academies to be found in the district round George-street. He was assisted by his two daughters and an

assistant master. As showing how the prevalent ideas on education differed from those of to-day, it may be noted that in the upper class scholars were obliged to learn ten lines of Ovid by heart at home each day, and severe punishment awaited the lad who dared to face his master any morning without knowing his lines. Amongst his scholars were the sons and daughters of the Murrays, of Ancoats Hall ; the Kennedys, of Ardwick Hall ; the M'Connells, of the Polygon, and other well known local magnates. When warehouses commenced taking the place of private houses, Mr. Johns removed to Broughton, where he died. Amongst other residents in the street were the Rev. Henry Fielding, chaplain of the House of Correction ; and William Lewis, surgeon, his next-door neighbour ; whilst close by, at No. 31, were Austin's livery stables. At 57 the Rev. J. Wheeldon conducted a school ; at 65 M. A. Mordacque, whose eldest son afterwards entered the Church, gave lessons in French ; and at 63, Richard Drury obtained a precarious living as an artist. Henry Marsland, who was one of the first members of the city Council, lived at No. 18 ; the Revs. J. Parsons and W. Turner, connected with Rook-street Roman Catholic Chapel, lived at 58 ; and a little lower down the street was the house of Mrs. Leresche, who, with her neighbour George Condry, ran the " Manchester and Salford Advertiser."

GEORGE STREET MEMORIALS.

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PART II.—ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.

The above church in George-street owes its foundation to its first rector, the Rev. Cornelius Bayley. The foundation stone was laid in 1786, and on August 18, 1788, the building was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester (Dr. Cleaver), Dr. Bayley preaching the consecration sermon. The right of presentation was vested in the heirs of the founder for sixty years, and after that period in the Wardens and Fellows of the Collegiate Church. Dr. Bayley, who lived in a large house that stood in Charlotte-street, was the son of a leather breeches maker, who carried on a lucrative business in High-street. His father was a follower of Wesley, and the son, after taking his Doctor of Divinity degree at Cambridge, acted for a time as a teacher at Wesley's Kingswood School, receiving a salary of £12 a year and his board. Leaving the Wesleyan body he was ordained, and at once took the preliminary steps that led to the building of St. James's Church. Being exceedingly popular, he attracted a fashionable congregation to the church, and although he had left the Wesleyans many of them attended his church. This popularity caused him to be regarded with envious feeling by some members of the staff clerical at the Collegiate Church ; and on one occasion the Rev. Joshua Brooks expressed his opinion about Bayley in a characteristic manner. When asking Charles Hulbert as to why

he had not been seen regularly at the old Church, he was told that on some mornings he attended at St. James's to hear Dr. Bayley. "Oh! he's a rank Methodist, and you may as well go to John Wesley's preaching shop in Owdham-street at once." And Brooks certainly spoke truly, as for many years the Wesleyans commenced the day with an early morning service, many of them attending the ordinary morning service at St. James's; and when Wesley visited Oldham-street he was assisted at the crowded communion service by Dr. Bayley. Another story about the rector is worth repeating. In features he so strongly resembled a Jew that when he was a candidate for ordination the Bishop at first hesitated to ordain him; but the candidate settled all doubts by asking that pork should be set before him for dinner. Bayley took part in the introduction of Sunday Schools into Manchester, and continued as rector of St. James's until his death in 1812. Beneath the church are extensive vaults which were formerly used for purposes of interment. There repose the remains of Dr. Bayley, and many other citizens, including the notorious deputy-constable, Joseph Nadin. The church, although with a much changed congregation attending it, remains to remind us of the days when its parish bordered on the fields and when well-to-do people lived round it.

GEORGE-STREET BAPTIST CHAPEL.

In 1825 the Baptists purchased from Daniel Grant a piece of land that lay nearly opposite the church, and built thereon a chapel. The founders had been

members of Gadsby's congregation in Rochdale Road, or St. George's Road as it was then called, and had been drafted off to form the new congregation. It was not a successful movement, and in 1830 the management was taken over by the York-street Chapel people. Under the Rev. John Aldis it prospered for some time, and branch chapels were founded in Wilmott-street, Hulme ; Wellington-street, Gorton ; and Great George-street, Salford. Another period of decadence set in, the congregation fell away, and in 1844 the chapel was sold, the proceeds being applied to the reduction of the debt resting upon the Grosvenor-street (C.-on-M.) Chapel.

A WELL KNOWN CONCERN.

Nearly seventy years ago a firm then known as Potters and Norris took premises at No. 1, George-street, and remained there for over forty years. The history of the firm is so interwoven with the political history, both local and national, of the last century that it is well worth recording. In 1801 two young men, William and Richard Potter, came to Manchester from Tadcaster to seek their fortunes. They were the sons of a Yorkshire farmer, whose farm was too small to find work for the members of his family. William had therefore been employed by a Wigan manufacturer, for whom he travelled, carrying samples, on horseback throughout the country. He was a man of indomitable energy, and in partnership with his brother Richard, who had served an apprenticeship with a Warrington draper, he commenced business at No. 5, Cannon-street. Two years later a third brother, Thomas, joined the

concern, but in 1806 William retired. The remaining brothers did not confine their energies to commercial matters, but took a leading part in local reform movements. The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act by the ministry of Lord Liverpool, and the subsequent suggestion of an Act of Indemnity for all illegal acts committed during the period of suspension drew forth from the reformers of Manchester a vigorous protest. Their meetings were held in a little room connected with the Potters' warehouse. In 1826 the brothers and Robert Philips (father of R. N. Philips, M.P.), were mainly instrumental in presenting a requisition to the churchwardens to call a meeting of ratepayers to consider the state of the country. The refusal to comply led to the commencement of the agitation that ended to the incorporation of the borough. After the passing of the Reform Bill, Richard Potter was elected M.P. for Wigan, and when Manchester was incorporated Thomas was the first Mayor selected. In 1840 the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him, and he died in March, 1845, in his 71st year. In the meantime business had prospered, and in 1830 S. H. Norris was admitted a partner, the name being changed to T. and R. Potter and S. H. Norris, but when the premises at George-street were entered the style became Potters and Norris. In 1836 Mr. Norris withdrew from the firm, his place being taken by Francis Taylor, the title became Potters and Taylor. Mr. Norris was a Conservative in politics, but Mr. Taylor, like the Potters, was an advanced Radical, and took a leading part in educational matters. After the death of Sir

Thomas his son John took a more active part in public life, sharing with Dr. John Watts the honour of inaugurating the Free Library system in Manchester. When the late Queen visited Manchester in 1851 he was Mayor, and received the honour of knighthood. In 1857 he was elected M.P. for Manchester, but a year later he died. A younger brother, T. B. Potter, was for many years M.P. for Rochdale, his record of public service being particularly honourable. The next change in the name of the firm took place in 1872. Mr. Taylor had died, and in the year named Mr. T. B. Potter sold the business to S. T. Martin, the name becoming Potter and Martin. Two years later the concern was converted into a limited company, and in 1878 it was purchased by H. Bannerman and Sons. It may be mentioned that Sir Thomas Potter built the house at Buile Hill, Pendleton, where he died.

MANCHESTER'S "MAN OF ROSS."

This term has been applied to Joseph Adshead, who formerly carried on business as an estate agent in George-street. Mr. Adshead commenced life as a merchant, and was one of the first councillors elected for St. Michael's Ward, but resigned soon afterwards owing to failure in business. He afterwards became an estate agent, was elected a representative for Oxford Ward in 1846, and continued to be a member of the Council until his death in 1861. He wrote "The Wreck of the Rothesay Castle;" "Prisons and Prisoners;" and a number of pamphlets. The treatment of prisoners occupied much of his thoughts, and in.

connection with his book on prison life he visited many prisons in the United Kingdom, on the continent, and in the states. For his efforts he received a gold medal from Oscar, King of Sweden. He was one of the promoters of the Lancasterian School, and was connected with the Industrial School movement. When the Committee of the Manchester Ragged and Industrial Schools was formed in 1846 he was elected a member, and in later years became chairman and treasurer ; and was also active in the formation of the Manchester Reformatory. In 1858 Mr. Adshead read a paper before the National Association for Social Science, on " Reformatory and Ragged Schools, their comparative economy." He was a supporter of voluntary education, founded the Night Asylum for Destitute Poor, and in many ways worked for the improvement of the social condition of the working classes. He published a map of Manchester, which consisted of twenty-four sheets, and on which every building in the town was marked. It was a tremendous undertaking, and the map is full of interest, enabling us to realise the vast changes that have taken place during the last half century.

When mentioning the names of some former residents of the street, I should have said that when Benjamin Heywood, the banker, married the daughter of Thomas Robinson, of Cheetham Hill, he commenced house-keeping at 41, George-street. In 1820 he removed to Pendleton, was returned M.P. for the county in 1831, and was created a baronet in 1838.

MOUNT STREET MEMORIALS.

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THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE.

The street name derives its name from the rising ground in its vicinity, which was, a century or more since, known as the Mount. It was a quiet, retired spot when, in 1795, the Quakers, finding their old meeting house, that had stood at the corner of Jackson's Row and Deansgate for more than a century, too small for the accommodation of the increasing numbers of people attending their service, purchased a plot of land at the corner of South-street and Dickinson-street, and erected thereon a meeting house. The building had entrances from both streets, and the land between it and Mount-street remained unbuilt upon until in 1829, when, increased accommodation being necessary, the present building was put up. The older building was described by Aston as being "like the respectable members of the sect which here worship, it is plain, but substantial;" and its career, with the exception of two incidents, was equally calm. One of the two events referred to occurred on a Sunday morning, when the minister, Joseph Atkinson, a hat manufacturer in Cupid's Alley, died during service. The other event arose out of the affair known as Peterloo. When the Yeomanry made their murderous attack upon the Reformers, men, women, and children flew in all directions. Hundreds of them ran up South-street, and some, seeing the doors of the meeting house open, sought there a refuge. Some of these unfortunate beings were suffering from sabre wounds, and for many

months the floor of the meeting house was stained with the marks of human blood. Quiet and unassuming in their demeanour, the members of the congregation have at all times included amongst their numbers some public spirited men who have rendered valuable services to the community. Always the friends of freedom and the foes of oppression, they played a noble part in the great anti-slavery agitation, and many meetings were held at Mount-street advocating the claims of the slaves. The most notable speaker on these occasions was George Thompson, who possessed great oratorical power. Temperance, peace, and social betterment have ever been advocated by the Friends, and many gatherings have taken place in the meeting house in support of them. To show how intimately the members of the meeting have been associated with local work it is only necessary to mention the names of a few of those who have met for worship there. They have included John Edward Taylor, the founder of the "Manchester Guardian;" Thomas Hoyle, the calico printer; the Crewdsons, the Binyons, Alderman King; George Bradshaw, the originator of the railway guide; Dr. John Dalton, Alderman W. Nield, and many others. The Quakers' school was built at the corner of Mount-street and Peter-street in 1819. Prior to that the school had been held in the old meeting house, Jackson's Row, when John Taylor, father of John Edward Taylor, was master, and later in a room in Mount-street belonging to Thomas Hoyle. In the new building Charles Cumber was master until his death in 1853, when he was succeeded by James Cooke.

THE FRIENDS' INSTITUTE.

In December, 1857 the institute was commenced. Its aims were detailed in a circular signed by a number of leading Friends, amongst whom were Thomas Binyon, William Brockbank, George Dawson, John Houldsworth, William King, and Alfred Waterhouse. The school premises (the school having been closed) were fitted up, a reading room furnished with newspapers and magazines, a coffee room, and a room for the use of women Friends were provided. Friends visiting the city were to have free admission to the Institute, and young men coming to Manchester were provided with a free ticket available for three months. The annual subscription was ten shillings for men and six shillings for women. The movement was successful, and the extent to which the new club was used is evidenced by a list of the subscribers for the year 1861. It includes 150 names, and comprised many well known public men.

LLOYD-STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL.

The first Presbyterian Chapel built in Manchester was dedicated to St. Andrew, and stood at the corner of Lloyd-street and Mount-street. It was opened on June 13, 1799. We are told by a contemporary that it was built of brick and stone, that the front was handsome, the interior very neatly fitted up, and the cost £3,500. The first minister was the Rev. R. Jack, who was one of the few Dissenting ministers of those days to receive from the University of Glasgow the honorary degree of D.D. In the early thirties he received the assistance of a co-pastor, the Rev. William M'Kerrow,

who had been ordained in 1827, and came to Manchester in this capacity, afterwards succeeding to the pastorate. In 1858 the chapel was sold, and the congregation removed to Brunswick-street, where Dr. M'Kerrow continued his ministry until a short time prior to his death. The jubilee of his ministry was celebrated by the entire Presbyterian body, by whom he was deeply beloved. A testimonial of the value of over £1,000, together with an illuminated address, was presented to him ; and his services to education in Manchester were recognised by the endowment of a scholarship in connection with the school board. He was one of the principal organisers of the United Kingdom Alliance, was one of the first members of the Manchester School Board, and was an active member of the Anti-Corn Law League. He died on June 4, 1878, aged 75 years.

THE MOUNT-STREET SCHOOL OF ANATOMY.

Few Manchester men have done more to advance surgical science than did Joseph Jordan, who was born on March 3, 1787, at 116, Water-street. He received much of his early training under William Simmons, one of the members of the Infirmary surgical staff, and completed it at Edinburgh under Sir Charles Bell and Dr. Munro. In October, 1815, he opened rooms for the study of anatomy in Back Queen-street, but a year later he secured more convenient premises at No. 4, afterwards known as 70, Bridge-street—an old-fashioned, double-fronted house that stood near to Deansgate. His school rapidly became popular, and so thorough was the teaching that in 1817 the Apothecaries'

Company decided to accept his certificates of efficiency. This was followed, in 1821, by a similar decision by the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1825 Mr. Jordan purchased a plot of land, now the site of the Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society, and erected thereon a medical school, where were taught anatomy, surgery, medicine, chemistry, &c. The operating theatre was a fine room, and in another large room were placed Mr. Jordan's collection of over two thousand specimens. Here valuable work was carried on in the face of much opposition from the Pine-street school and the Infirmary authorities, until in 1834, when it was closed in accordance with an arrangement made with the committee of the younger school. Mr. Jordan's services were recognised by a public dinner attended by all the leading medical men of the town, at which a presentation was made and thirty toasts were drunk. The school premises were sold, and the site was covered with a warehouse.

AN OLD MANCHESTER FAMILY.

We have already noted that Mr. Jordan bought the land in Mount-street from a Mr. Pooley. In 1788 John Pooley, carpenter and builder, lived and had a yard on the Mount. His son John took a leading part in connection with the volunteer movement of a century ago. He was a cotton spinner in Hulme, and when the Hulme company of volunteers was formed Major Pooley was placed in command. He was in London at the time when the news of the battle of Waterloo arrived, and, at his own expense, travelled post to

Manchester in order to be the first to announce to his fellow townsmen the welcome news. He was succeeded in business by a John Pooley, of the third generation, who was returned to the town council for St. George's Ward in 1848, and was elected an alderman in 1849. He was for some time churchwarden of the Collegiate Church, and was prominently associated with St. George's Church, Hulme. He died in 1883. Later members of the family took a prominent part in local affairs, W. O. Pooley rendering valuable service on the Board of Guardians for Manchester, and C. J. Pooley rendering equally valuable service on the Committee of the Royal Institution and the Art Gallery Committee. His knowledge of matters relating to art was extensive, and as a judge of pictures he had few equals outside the ranks of those actually engaged in the business. For a century in one capacity or another some member of the family was connected with public work in the city.



BROWN STREET NOTES.

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THE STREET OF OLDEN TIMES.

One of the most interesting reminiscences of the Brown-street of a century and a half ago is to be found on the map of the town published by Casson and Berry. Around the map are views of some of the principal buildings in the town, one of which was Mr. Marritt's house in Brown-street. The mansion was a fine three-storeyed building, with two windows on either side of the doorway in addition to wings on either side. As was frequently the case, over the door is a carved representation of the family coat-of-arms, and the steps have handrails on either side. The family name and the position of the mansion are perpetuated by the street name of Marriott's Court. Another glimpse of the old street is to be found in Ralston's interesting pictures depicting the Market-street lane end as it appeared prior to the widening of Market-street. It is represented as a narrow, winding thoroughfare with a footpath on the left hand side less than a yard in width. At the corner of Market-street were two posts to prevent vehicles from encroaching upon the footway. On the right hand side of Brown-street there was no trace of footpath, and to prevent the wheels of vehicles from coming in contact with the house wall a number of pieces of stone were reared against the wall. This was necessary, for the street was barely wide enough to accommodate a vehicle. At the left hand corner

of Brown-street, and facing into Market-street, were two shops, whose black and white style with overhanging gables and rounded bow windows were in remarkable contrast to the buildings of to-day. After the widening of Market-street, which had necessitated the taking down of the old shops, an inn, long known as the Commercial was built. The mention of the Commercial serves to remind one that in bygone days a well known Manchester character followed his calling at several favourite spots, one of which was the left hand corner of Brown-street.

CHELSEA BUNS.

For more than a generation the cry of " Hot Chelsea Buns " was a familiar one in Manchester streets, and few are the Manchester men and women whose memories carry them back to those days, who fail to remember not only the call, but also the taste of the tempting morsels offered for sale. The buns were similar to those made at the old Bun House, Chelsea, and having been prepared at home were kept warm by means of a small charcoal fire placed underneath the tray on which they were offered for sale. Thus carrying his wares in front of him, wearing a white apron and an old-fashioned beaver hat, and with a formidable umbrella fastened Mother Gampwise, did the Chelsea bunman parade Manchester streets, making pauses at favourite spots. Many persons purchased from him because of the quality of his buns, and some in order to hear his sonorous acknowledgement of " Thank you, sir," To speak correctly, there were two Chelsea bunmen. The first was James Robinson. His daughter married

James Bagott, who lived at Posey-street and John-street, off Garden Lane, Salford. He succeeded to his father-in-law's business, and being possessed of a remarkably fine, deep-toned voice became exceedingly well known. The story is told that he sold the reversionary interest in his body to the medical men of the Infirmary, who desired after death to make an examination of his lungs. He afterwards regretted the bargain, and, repaying the £100 he had received, the agreement was cancelled. He died on November 20, 1863, and with him passed away the familiar cry of "Hot Chelsea Buns."

THE MARSDEN-STREET THEATRE.

In 1753, Manchester's first regular theatre was built in Marsden-street. The name of the first proprietor is unknown, but it is on record that William Horton, of Chadderton, owned it in 1758, and that on February 6 of that year he gave the use of the building for the performance of a masque, for the benefit of the Infirmary that had been opened three years before. In the advertisements it is described as standing at the top of King-street, the land thereabouts being only sparsely occupied by buildings. Aston, in his Metrical Records, notes the building of the theatre thus :—

In the meantime, expansion of trade let in Taste,
On Shakespere, and Jonson, and Otway to feast ;
For when the Commissioners' Police have their seat—
In a building of boards and canvas—a treat
Intellectual, tho' rudely, the Drama display'd.
Though money for concert alone had been paid.
The twig Taste had planted became a great tree,
And in seventeen hundred and fifty three,
A playhouse was built where is now Marsden street
For Tragedy bloody, and Operas sweet.

The explanation of the earlier lines is the fact that the law prohibited the charging of admission to see the performing of stage plays. A concert was, therefore, arranged, and the dramatic performance was given in connection with it. Thus, on April 30, 1760, a concert was advertised "to be performed in the theatre, in six parts; front seats 2s., back seats 1s. To begin at six o'clock in the evening, to whatever company may happen to be in the house." "Between the parts of the concert, for the further amusement of the ladies and gentlemen, will be presented, gratis, a tragedy called 'Theodosius, or the force of Love,' all the characters exhibited by persons without hire, gain, or reward; to which will be added a farce, 'The Old Man Taught Wisdom, or the Virgin Unmask'd.'" At that time the theatre was managed by Messrs. Whiteley and Co., who on May 12, 1760, paid to the Infirmary the sum of £50, the proceeds of a concert. In 1770, boxes were added, to which the charge of admission was 3s., but five years later, consequent upon the growth of the attendances, a new theatre was built in Spring Gardens. The last performance in Marsden-street took place on May 12, 1775, when "A Bold Stroke for a Wife," and "High Life Below Stairs" were given. The building was afterwards used for a variety of purposes, the most interesting of which was a school of design. This arose out of a visit that B. R. Haydon, the painter of mammoth pictures, paid to the town in 1837. In his diary, he says: "Manchester in dreadful condition as to art. No school of design. The young men drawing without instruction.

A fine anatomical figure shut up in a box ; the house-keeper obliged to hunt for the key. I'll give it them before I go." The school was opened in 1838, but had only a short career. The critical artist was here again in 1839, when he apprenticed his son Frank to Mr. Fairbairn, the engineer, taking lodgings for him at 99, Mill-street, Ancoats.

Close to the theatre building a medical school was opened in 1829, and was carried on for a number of years, some well known local medical men taking the various subjects of study.

THE POST OFFICE SITE.

In 1824 the Lord of the Manor erected a Court Room on a portion of the present post office site. In addition to serving this purpose it was frequently used for the holding of public meetings. Under the room was a market devoted to butchers' stalls, known as shambles. No person was allowed to keep open shop for the sale of flesh meat in the town unless he rented one or more stalls in this or one of the other butcher's markets provided by the Lord of the Manor. When the manorial rights were sold to the Corporation the custom was allowed to lapse. In 1838 it was proposed to include a new post office in the alterations and extensions to be made in connection with the Exchange. Richard Cobden opposed the proposal, and as a result a recommendation was made to the Postmaster-General and the Lords of the Treasury to erect one on the site of the shambles underneath the Manor Court-room. This was done; and in September, 1840, the Brown-street

Post Office was opened. This continued until 1861, when the money order and savings bank business had increased so considerably as to necessitate the taking over of the upper room. This was accordingly done, but in 1875 the accommodation was so cramped as to cause the Chamber of Commerce to urge upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer the necessity for further extensions. It was pointed out that from 1861 to 1875 the number of clerks employed in the office had doubled, that the number of letter carriers and sorters had risen from 117 to 272, the weekly delivery of letters from 401,000 to 927,000, the letters posted from 485,000 to 1,134,000, and the money orders from 295,000 to 364,000. As a result a Bill authorising the acquisition of a more extensive site was passed through Parliament in 1876, and in September, 1884, the present building was opened. Its length is 246 feet, its width 122 feet, its area 3,334 yards, and its cost was about £120,000. The design was by Mr. Williams, surveyor to H.M. Board of Works.



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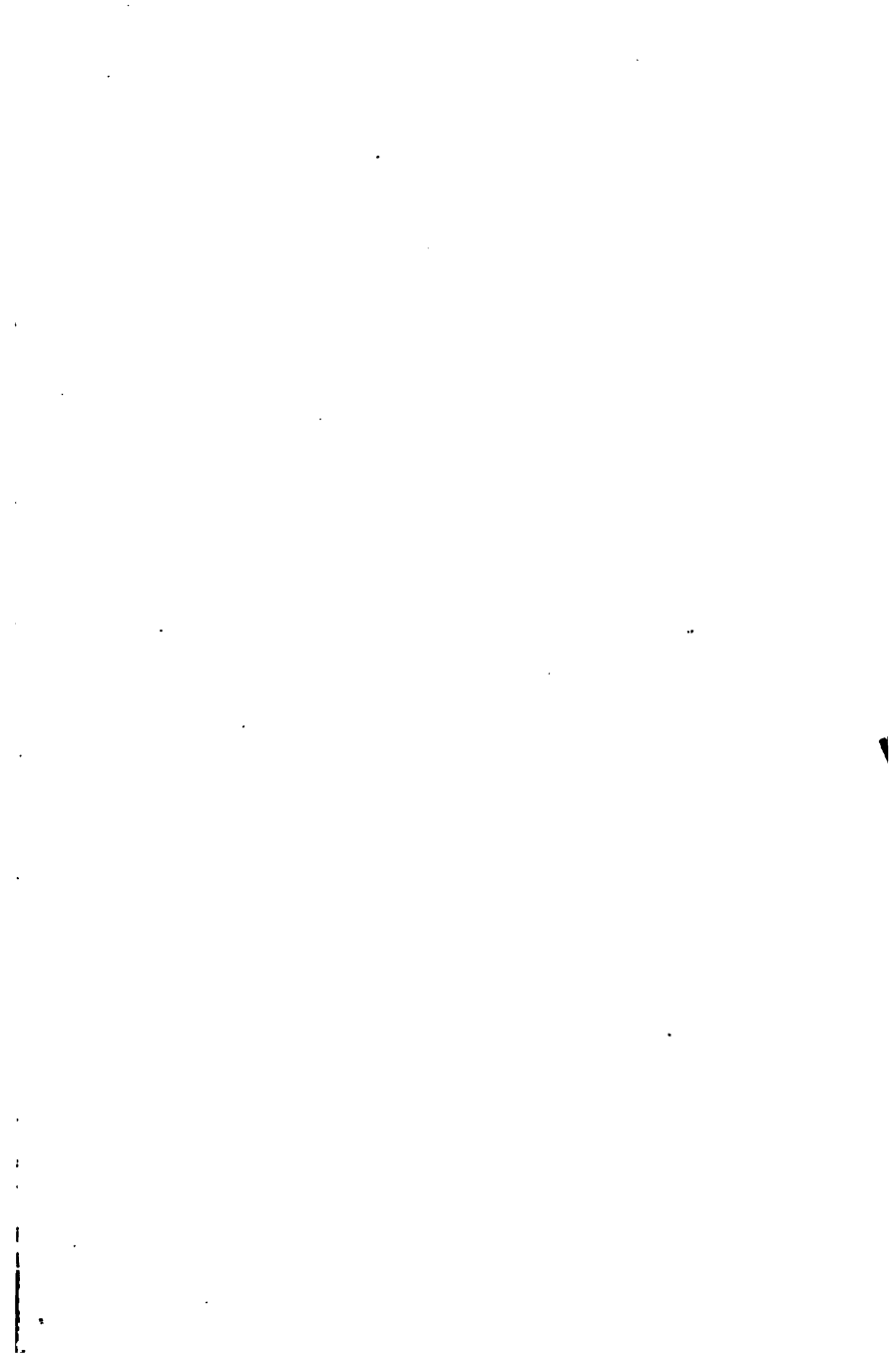
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